

Hafa Adai!

Vaccination campaign 'Road to 80' heading to Tinian. **PAGE 2**
Employers have legal right to mandate COVID shots. **PAGE 9**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 149

www.saipantribune.com

THURSDAY JULY 29, 2021

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Dead woman found in Marpi



A woman's lifeless body was found near the former Mariana Resort & Spa last Tuesday evening and the Department of Public Safety is still investigating what happened to the young woman. Family and friends, however, claim it was a hit-and-run.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A woman was found dead along Route 30 in Marpi Tuesday evening, with no immediate word from the police on what killed her.

According to Department of Public Safety spokesperson Dre Pangelinan, DPS responded around 9:52pm last

Tuesday to a report about an unresponsive individual lying

See DEAD on Page 4

Man allegedly tries to drive off Suicide Cliff after beating GF

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who allegedly tried to drive off Suicide Cliff in his car—reportedly over the guilt he felt for beating his girlfriend—chose to waive his preliminary hearing yesterday.

See MAN on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:49pm, July 28, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population
Fully Vaccinated: **70.6%**
Days since last community transmission **127**

| Pfizer/BioNTech | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Initiated: | 27,373 |
| Fully Vaccinated: | 25,365 |
| Moderna | |
| Initiated: | 4,276 |
| Fully Vaccinated: | 4,027 |
| Janssen | |
| Fully vaccinated: | 540 |

| GUAM | OLD | NEW | TOTAL |
|-----------|-------|-----|-------|
| Positive | 8,514 | 8 | 8,522 |
| Recovered | 8,319 | 6 | 8,325 |
| Active | 46 | 8 | 54 |
| Deaths | 143 | 0 | 143 |

| SAIPAN | OLD | NEW | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Positive | 190 | 0 | 190 |
| Traced via Travel Screening | 154 | 0 | 154 |
| Traced via Community Screening | 36 | 0 | 36 |
| Deaths | 2 | 0 | 2 |

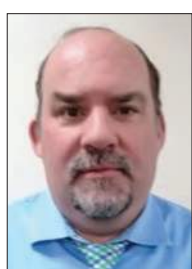
Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor



Ernest

'IPI directly owes CCC \$9.17M'

» Ernest says community benefit fund does not go to CCC

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

\$9,175,000 in fine, regulatory fee, and payment for a stipulated agreement.

That is the total amount Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC directly owes the Commonwealth Casino Commission, according to CCC legal counsel Michael Ernest. That amount does not include the

Community Benefit Fund nor the annual casino license fee, said Ernest, responding to a question Rep. Celina R. Babauta raised during the House Gaming Committee meeting last Thursday.

Ernest said IPI's Community Benefit Fund money actu-

See IPI on Page 4

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



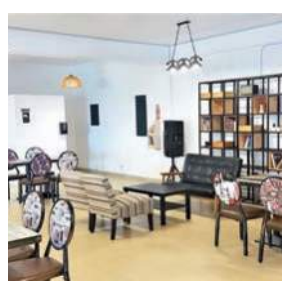
INSIDE



LOCAL

Breanna Oronigo is the first graduate of NMHC's Family Self-Sufficient Program.

PAGE 7



BUSINESS

Tucked into a corner in San Antonio, the Buenas Cafe has a laidback vibe.

PAGE 11



NATION

A man accused of killing eight people is sentenced to spend the rest of his life in prison.

PAGE 12



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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

Vaccination campaign 'Road to 80' heading to Tinian

» **\$1,000 up for grabs in special Tinian raffle**
 » **\$20 per Tinian resident who get vaccinated on Friday**
 » **Still no COVID on Rota— Rota Mayor's Office**

By JOSHUA SANTOS
 joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
 REPORTER

The COVID-19 vaccination campaign Road to 80 will be on Tinian on Friday, July 30, with a \$1,000 raffle just for Tinian's vaccinated population, on top of the \$2,000 that will be raffled for the entire CNMI vaccinated population.

To entice more Tinian residents to be vaccinated against COVID-19, Road to 80 will

be giving \$20 per resident who receives their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine on Friday while supplies last.

Road to 80 will be at the Tinian Health Center from 9am to 4:30pm, then the winner of the special Tinian raffle will be announced on Facebook Live on Road to 80's official Facebook page, with raffle host Brad Ruzala streaming the selection on Tinian from the Tinian Mayor's Office confer-

ence room.

According to the COVID-19 vaccination dashboard found on vaccinatecnmi.com, as of Wednesday afternoon, almost 1,500 Tinian residents are in the special raffle's selection pool.

Those on Tinian interested in scheduling their vaccination appointment can do so online at vaccinatecnmi.com or over the phone at 682-SHOT

See **VACCINATION** on Page 4

'Judge, EPA, DOJ pleased with CUC efforts to comply with SO1 and 2'

U.S. District Judge David O. Carter and both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Justice are reportedly mostly pleased with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s progress in complying with the mandates of court-mandated "stipulated orders."

Carter, who is handling the "stipulated orders" matter in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, together with EPA and DOJ representatives, visited Saipan last week to check in on CUC's progress, according to CUC executive director Gary Camacho.

He said CUC gave the group several tours of its facilities and gave them an "update presentation" on the current state of CUC's systems as a whole and presented on where CUC currently is in its ability to comply with Stipulated Order 1 and Stipulated Order 2.

SO1 and 2 are mandates issued by the U.S. District Court for the NMI ordering CUC to address its issues with drinking water, wastewater, and oil. The court issued the two orders in March 2009 through January 2020.

According to Camacho, Carter and the other federal government representatives were pleased with CUC's progress in regards to SO 1.

In regards to SO 2, the EPA's enforcement group brought up some concerns, but Camacho assured that "those findings were something easy enough to try to quickly make an adjustment on and correct."

"Judge Carter, the EPA, and the Department of Justice are pleased with the efforts and where we are today as far as Stipulated Order 1 [is concerned]. As for Stipulated Order 2, there's an oil water separator that still needs to be installed at Power Plant 1 [in Lower Base], and some work in Power Plant 4 [near Middle Road], [but] they're very happy with our progress," said Camacho.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the two orders directed CUC to implement certain projects within a specified time.

SO 1 focused on requiring CUC to provide safe drinking water to residents on a 24-hour basis, maintaining adequate chlorine supplies, and safely treating and discharging wastewater.

SO 2 focused on oil issues such as requiring CUC to repair and replace oil storage units and operation infrastructure, manage tank and pipeline facilities and handle storm water runoff. (Joshua Santos)

Sen. Sablan joins GOP

The CNMI Republican Party announced on Wednesday that first-term senator, two-term representative, and former independent candidate Vinie F. Sablan has been accepted to become a member of the longest serving party in the CNMI.

"Sen. Sablan has shown a true dedication to public service throughout his life—even before politics," said CNMI GOP president James Ada. "Throughout his years of service in the CNMI Legislature, in both the House and the Senate, he has shown the interest and skill in successfully reaching across party lines, establishing proactive relationships built on common goals and seeking policies that will benefit the lives of all those who call the CNMI home."

"The CNMI Republican Party is happy to accept Mr. Sablan's application to be a member of GOP and we are looking forward to adding his skills and passion for service to the accomplishments we aim to achieve for the people of the CNMI," Ada added.

The CNMI Republican Party, upon receiving his application, unanimously voted to approve Sablan's membership.

"This past year has been truly difficult for everyone in our community," Ada said. "The work we must do as a Commonwealth is more significant

than ever, and we must come together to reach our common goals of rebuilding our islands from the pandemic, fostering greater resiliency in our economy and our workforce, and securing a more prosperous future for our children."

"Sen. Sablan shares in this vision and has dedicated his entire career to serving the people of the CNMI. We are looking forward to rebuilding the CNMI in order to reach that vision for the betterment of our entire community."

Sablan is a senator representing Saipan and the Northern Islands. He serves as floor leader in the Senate, chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, and has previously represented Precinct 4 in the CNMI House of Representatives. (PR)



Sablan

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Master plan for NMC's future projects now 95% complete

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College is 95% finished with its facility master plan that will guide all of the college's future construction projects. According to NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, NMC aims to have the facility master plan finalized by August. Once that is completed, talks on architecture and engineering, design, and



Deleon Guerrero

construction will begin. Deleon Guerrero shared the college's future plans with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios during NMC's meeting with the Torres-Palacios administration at the Office of the Governor conference room on Tuesday.

Saipan Tribune previously reported that NMC vice president Frankie Eliptico and Rachel Ann Fusco—who leads the college's Capital Improvement Project team and facilities team—are the two leads in creating the master plan.

Deleon Guerrero said Tuesday that the ultimate goal, once all construction work is finished, is to create a "college town." In line with this goal, Deleon Guerrero wants the future construction projects to "make sense for the future of the college" and reinvigorate the economies of the nearby As Terlaje and Dandan areas.

"We want to be sure that whatever we build is following that plan, and not just haphazard. We want to be sure that we're really thinking of the future needs of the Commonwealth, as well as the future needs of the college," said Deleon Guerrero.

As for as his office's role in NMC's future plans, Torres

said that NMC was provided \$10 million earlier last year through a portion of funds awarded to the CNMI through

the American Rescue Plan Act and through previous funding awarded to his office. Moving forward, Tor-

res said that NMC will be part of the recently formed Infrastructure Recovery Program, and that his office will

dedicate a team for NMC to expedite assistance for the college's future projects. "Anything that NMC needs,

the administration can help. We'll make sure that we provide [that] assistance," said Torres.

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SALE PRICE **\$39,995**

STK: 17P331
32,140 MILES
KBB: \$42,590

2015 FORD EXPLORER XLT

SALE PRICE **\$22,995**

STK: 15HS981
18,617 MILES
KBB: \$23,603

2016 HYUNDAI VELOSTER SPORT

SALE PRICE **\$16,995**

STK: 20H068A
39,217 MILES
KBB: \$16,830

2014 MAZDA MAZDA6 SPORT

• 44,202 MILES
• STK: 19HS901B
• KBB: \$14,024

SALE PRICE **\$12,995**

2018 MAZDA MAZDA3

• 10,324 MILES
• STK: 18HS904
• KBB: \$16,402

SALE PRICE **\$16,995**

2015 TOYOTA CAMRY LE

• 44,202 MILES
• STK: 15P325
• KBB: \$20,295

SALE PRICE **\$18,995**

2016 TOYOTA PRIUS C

• 48,814 MILES
• STK: 20D134A
• KBB: \$16,585

SALE PRICE **\$13,995**

2018 KIA OPTIMA LX

• 10,367 MILES
• STK: 18HS925C
• KBB: \$19,930

SALE PRICE **\$17,995**

2018 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER SPORT

• 12,549 MILES
• STK: 8M029D
• KBB: \$19,751

SALE PRICE **\$19,995**

2018 KIA FORTE HATCHBACK

• 10,564 MILES
• STK: 18HS916
• KBB: \$15,477

SALE PRICE **\$14,995**

2017 MAZDA MAZDA3 TOURING H/B

• 21,120 MILES
• STK: 20D013A
• KBB: \$17,801

SALE PRICE **\$17,995**

2011 TOYOTA 4RUNNER

• 77,762 MILES
• STK: 11P314
• KBB: \$21,336

SALE PRICE **\$19,995**

2016 MAZDA MAZDA6 SPORT

• 55,153 MILES
• STK: 16R269
• KBB: \$14,450

SALE PRICE **\$14,995**

2020 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SPORT

• 4,180 MILES
• STK: 20P307
• KBB: \$21,326

SALE PRICE **\$18,995**

2019 MAZDA CX-5 GT AWD

• 6,214 MILES
• STK: 19P299
• KBB: \$28,460

SALE PRICE **\$26,995**

SOLD

2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT

• 10,120 MILES
• STK: 8HS879
• KBB: \$19,402

SALE PRICE **\$16,995**

2017 HYUNDAI VELOSTER

• 10,095 MILES
• STK: 17P326
• KBB: \$18,785

SALE PRICE **\$18,995**

2015 TOYOTA TACOMA SR5 4WD

• 60,757 MILES
• STK: 15P327
• KBB: \$32,187

SALE PRICE **\$30,995**

2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT

• 10,153 MILES
• STK: 18HS905
• KBB: \$19,496

SALE PRICE **\$16,995**

2019 HYUNDAI TUCSON GL

• 20,026 MILES
• STK: 9H040D
• KBB: \$21,411

SALE PRICE **\$19,995**

2019 NISSAN FRONTIER 4WD

• 22,070 MILES
• STK: 19P326
• KBB: \$33,250

SALE PRICE **\$32,995**

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USCG commandant attends joint legislative meeting

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Coast Guard commandant Adm. Karl L. Schultz visited the Legislature yesterday with his military aide, Lt. Commander Christine Torres Igisomar, who is the highest-ranking Chamorro woman in the U.S. Coast

Guard's history.

At a joint legislative meeting held in the House of Representatives chamber, House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez and Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider presented Schultz with a House joint resolution that honors and commends the U.S. Coast Guardsmen that have served the CNMI under

Schultz's leadership.

Villagomez and Hofschneider also presented gifts to Schultz, Igisomar, and other USCS officials.

Schultz, who took over as the 26th commandant of the USCG on June 1, 2018, also gave commemorative gifts to Villagomez and Hofschneider.

In his speech, Schultz offered con-

dolences on the CNMI's recent loss of Rep. Ivan A. Blanco and assured that when disaster strikes, the USCG will be here to help. For example, after Super Typhoon Yutu hit the CNMI in October 2018, the USCG's C-130 aircraft were the first ones to arrive in the region, he said, and the Coast Guard cleared the main ship channel so that large ships could enter with much-needed relief supplies.

He said Coast Guard members also supported the "Temporary Emergency Tent and Roof Installation" team, identifying homes that needed new roofs and ensuring they had temporary tarps in place.

He said they will continue to conduct patrols within the Exclusive Economic Zone, as well as check on those who inhabit the remote Northern Islands.

Hofschneider said the CNMI is grateful to the USCG for many years of protection and security the borders, protecting the coastal environment, and ensuring the Commonwealth's overall safety.

"We stand ready to do our part in protecting the liberties and freedoms of this great country and our Commonwealth," the Senate president said.

Villagomez said it's an honor to present a small token of their appre-

ciation for Schultz's service to the CNMI. "With his leadership, we have CNMI residents, sons and daughters of our own...serving under his leadership," Villagomez said.

Schultz said he is in the region with the USCG's 14th District Commander, Rear Adm. Matt Sibley, to visit Coast Guard units, talk to personnel, and learn about the environments in which they work, and meet those partners with whom they engage.

"Earlier today we toured Saipan. What a beautiful island," he said.

Upon their arrival on the island Tuesday night, Igisomar's mother hosted a dinner travel party, as well as the families of five recent high school graduates who are in preparatory training to attend the USCG Academy in the U.S. mainland.

Schultz said currently they have 17 active duty Coast Guard members from the CNMI and that nearly 20% of them hail from the Hofschneider family. He said Lt. Freddy Hofschneider is currently the commanding officer of Coast Guard cutter *Maui*, a 110-foot patrol boat, supporting 5th Fleet Operations near Manama, Bahrain.



U.S. Coast Guard commandant Adm. Karl L. Schultz and other USCG officials join members of the 22nd CNMI Legislature in a group photo during yesterday's joint legislative meeting at the House of Representatives chamber. **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**

MAN

From Page 1

Tristin Lance V. Muña, 25, waived his preliminary hearing yesterday before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho.

Muña, who is a 2021 Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tourney heavy-weight division runner up, is being charged with disturbing the peace to include domestic violence, assault, assault and battery, interfering with a domestic violence report, and kidnapping. He is set to be arraigned on Aug. 2 at 9am before Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja.

Muña, who was allowed to post 10% of his initial \$10,000 bail, remains under house arrest after being released to his mother last July 22.

According to court documents, Muña's girlfriend reported the beating incident to police on July 15 after receiving a voice message from Muña via WhatsApp that he was going to end his life.

This prompted Department of Public Safety to notify all units that Muña was suicidal and Muña was later found at Suicide Cliff, where he tried to drive his vehicle off of the barri-

caded cliff. He failed to run off the cliff as the place had been barricaded after another such suicide incident months earlier.

The victim told police that it all started when Muña was "acting weird" earlier that evening. At about 10pm, the victim said she asked to look at Muna's phone and she discovered that he had deleted messages he had sent to another woman.

The victim told Muña that she wanted to end the relationship. The victim noted that Muña had threatened to kill himself in the past when they would have arguments.

The victim said she went to take a shower and could hear Muña pacing in and out of the bedroom. When she came out, she saw Muña holding a bloody hand over a trash can. The victim said she was about to call their neighbor for help but when she tried to reach for her phone, Muña allegedly threw the phone across the room.

When the victim tried to push him away from her to call for help, Muna allegedly "snapped" and started punching her until she was on the floor with Muña standing over her.

The victim noted that Muña was punching her with two fists, with all his strength, because the punch-

es were coming in too fast and too heavy.

Muña allegedly only slowed down when the victim said she wasn't going to leave him.

When Muña stopped hitting her, the victim told him that she needed medical attention and to allow their neighbor, one of the victim's friends, to take her to the hospital.

That was when Muña grabbed a few of his belongings and left their home.

Later, at around 10:45pm, the victim said she received a voice message from Muña saying that he "deserved to die" and "goodbye." This prompted the victim to report the incident to police because she was afraid he would kill himself.

At around 11:48pm, police officers found Muña accelerating through the Suicide Cliff barricade. The vehicle did not go all the way through but police reported that the front tires of the vehicle were already off the cliff and they had to place rocks behind the two back tires to keep the vehicle from completely falling off the cliff.

Muña later told police that he was thinking about what he did to his girlfriend so he took his car and tried to end his life.

DEAD

From Page 1

on the shoulder of Route 30 in Marpi, just north of the former Mariana Resort & Spa.

DPS is temporarily withholding the identity of the individual "out of respect for the family during this emotional time."

The case exploded on social media, with many posting the alleged victim's name and pictures, but *Saipan Tribune* will be awaiting word from DPS to make the official identification.

Saipan Tribune learned from a source, though, that the one who called the police, who lives nearby, was driving home at around 9pm when he noticed a body along the

road. The caller immediately stopped to help and called police for assistance.

At the scene, police noticed tire marks near where the woman had been found.

The police report stated that Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services responders transported the woman to the Commonwealth Health Center where she was pronounced dead at 1am.

According to DPS, the incident remains under investigation. As of press time, DPS could not disclose yet the cause of the female's death.

However, according to family members and friends who took to social media to share their knowledge of the incident, they claim that the female was a victim of a fatal hit-and-run.

According a report from DFEMS, at around 10pm, the department was called to respond to a report about an individual that was not breathing and was without a pulse in Marpi.

Medic 2 and Engine 2 were immediately dispatched from Station 2 in Garapan and arrived at the scene at 10:09pm.

At the scene, firefighters immediately started assessing the woman's injuries. The firefighters reported that she was lifeless and they observed multiple lacerations and deformities to her body. In addition, the officers also noticed that she sustained multiple fractures and severe injuries to her head.

DFEMS transported the victim to CHC at 11:45pm where she was pronounced dead at 1am by Dr. Bryan Strickland.

IPI

From Page 1

ally goes to various community entities—as required by law—and not to CCC. "That's not something that the CCC would get or oversee," he said.

Ernest said the \$15.5 million annual license fee that IPI owes also does not go to CCC, but to the Commonwealth general fund.

"And that's for you, honorable ladies and gentlemen, to divvy up as you see fit," he told the Gaming Committee, which is chaired by Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan).

Ernest said the only money that's directly owed to CCC right now that he is aware of is the \$25,000 payment for stipulated agreement that was from 2019, the \$3,150,000 regulatory fee required by law, and the \$6 million fine that was imposed by CCC board's order 2021-002.

Ernest said the \$3 million regulatory fee and the \$6 million penalty are subject to IPI's appeal right now before the Superior Court.

He noted CCC executive director Andrew Yeom's statement that he is interested in getting IPI to become compliant and not to punish it. "He wants them to get into compliance and open the casino. And so that's been the genesis," the CCC counsel said.

Ernest said the second point is that, right now, it's just an administrative action against IPI and there's no Superior Court judgment yet.

"But mostly we're the government and we feel that money owed to the government generally have priority anyway. Anything that we would also take right now would also be taken from the security of public lands," he said.

Ernest pointed out that the Department of Public Lands is the landowner for most of that IPI casino/resort building in Garapan.

"And as a result, they have the first lien on the real property. And I don't believe the commission is willing to take money for itself that would ultimately end up going to the people, the true landowners, which is the people of the CNMI," he said.

day," said Ruszala.

When asked if or when Road to 80 will go to Rota, Ruszala said the details for now are "tentative" and will elaborate further sometime later.

In related news, the Rota Mayor's Office issued a statement clarifying that Rota is still COVID-19-free, in response to what it described as a false WhatsApp message floating around the island that a case of COVID-19 had been found on Rota.

The statement urged the Rota community to watch out for misinformation and to follow updates directly from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Saipan Tribune confirmed with a source at CHCC on Wednesday that Rota has had zero positive cases of COVID-19 thus far.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

VACCINATION

From Page 2

(7468). Road to 80's Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/roadto80cnmi>.

Ruszala said on Wednesday that he and the rest of Road to 80 are excited to bring the campaign to Saipan's neighboring islands. "We're excited to bring the Road to 80 CNMI across the channel to our brothers and sisters [on] Tinian. This effort is CNMI-wide and we're coming to Tinian to spice up the vaccination effort in the home of the hottest peppers in the Pacific. We're thankful to the Tinian Mayor's Office and the Tinian and Northern Islands Delegation for their support of the Road to 80 and our special vaccination drive this Fri-



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USCG suspends search for 2 overdue mariners off Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard suspended Tuesday its search for Xiao Wei Quin and Yun Liu Red, the two men who reportedly sailed from Saipan to Guam and remain missing.

The search began last Wednesday, when their 14-foot black Kodiak skiff was reported overdue while traveling between Saipan and Guam.

At 4:16pm, Wednesday, July 21, Sector Guam watchstanders received a report from the CNMI Department of Public Safety notifying

them that the spouse of one of the individuals had called after being concerned for the mariners' wellbeing. The spouse reported that the two men left Saipan for Guam on July 18, and the last text she received from her husband stated he could see Guam.

Sector Guam watchstanders issued an Urgent Marine Information Broadcast and deployed assets to search the area, while also coordinating with local and federal partners, including land searches in Guam.

"Since the case began,

we worked closely with our local, regional, and federal partners covering over 14,000 square nautical miles during 111 search hours with no sign of Mr. Wei Quin and Mr. Liu Red," said Capt. Nicholas Simmons, commander of Coast Guard Sector Guam. "Making this decision is never easy, but we have suspended the active search pending development of further information."

Assets and personnel involved in the search efforts included: the crew of the Coast Guard cutter Oliver Henry;

Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor 45-foot response boat-medium crews; a Navy Mark VI patrol boat and crew; Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 H-60 helicopters and aircrews; Navy P-8 Poseidon aircrews; a Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 Hercules aircrew; Air Force security forces; Guam Police Department ground crews; Guam Fire Department ground crews; Joint Rescue Sub Center Guam watchstanders; and Joint Rescue Coordination Center Honolulu watchstanders. **(USCG)**

'Star Marianas wants CPA to waive passenger tax for Tinian and Rota'

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Star Marianas, the sole airline that provides interisland commute among the islands of the CNMI, continues to argue that the Passenger Facility Charge imposed by the Commonwealth Ports Authority should be waived for them.

In an interview with CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, she said this is on top of the millions of dollars Star Marianas owes in fees. She said Star Marianas argues that PFCs should be waived for its to lessen the burden of interisland commuters.

"Star Marianas, for a long time, has been arguing that Tinian and Rota should be waived as far as the collection of those PFCs [is concerned] to basically lessen the burden of interisland commute. Which I don't disagree with," she said.

Essentially, PFC is a tax that the Federal Aviation Administration authorizes CPA to impose on all airlines doing business in the CNMI in order to fund improvements to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Tinian International Airport, and Rota International Airport.

The board chair explained CPA also makes improvements to its terminals through AIP, or Airport Improvement Program, funds from the FAA. However, these grants do not cover 100% of the cost and, like other federal

grants, there is a local match.

Although she does not disagree with the argument, King-Hinds said it would be unfair to other airlines if the tax is waived specifically for Star Marianas.

"I can't just think of Tinian and Rota. I have a duty and obligation to the entire Commonwealth and when you only tax a certain group of people, it's unfair," she said.

On top of it being unfair, CPA depends on taxes like PFCs in order to make the necessary improvements on Tinian and Rota since it isn't subsidized by the CNMI government.

"Where am I going to get the money for the improvements that are needed to be made to Tinian and Rota? Everybody basically has to share in this burden. CPA does not get any funding, at all, from the government. We rely on our ability to charge and assess fees to be able to cover for these costs, so that's why we charge PFCs," she said.

Currently, CPA isn't imposing PFCs as their authorization to collect these fees have expired. King-Hinds said CPA is still working on the application to get regain authorization from the FAA to impose these fees.

"We issued a notice to all carriers that our authorization to collect those fees has expired and we have submitted a letter to the FAA requesting to reauthorize us to continue charging the \$4.50," she said.

CUC ADVISORIES

Water interruption today in parts of Lower Dandan, As Lito, As Perdido, Koblerville

There will be an emergency water service interruption today, July 29, from 8:30am to 4:30pm for customers along Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road (from Shell Dandan gas station to the As Lito Happy Market) and customers behind the Joeten Dandan Building.

This will allow water operators of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to repair an 8-inch mainline leak on the north-bound lane of Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road next to Happy Market in As Lito. Water service to the affected areas will resume soon after.

For the safety of the men and women at the jobsite, proceed with caution while driving through the repair site or take an alternative route if necessary.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. **(PR)**

Scheduled power interruption on Friday

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on Friday, July 30, 2021, from 9am to 12pm.

- Areas Affected: Elleg Avenue, Oleai
- Circuit: Kiya 4
- Water Well Affected: None
- Wastewater Facility Affected: None

■ Purpose: To replace a leaning and rotted primary power pole and to elevate five spans of lower primary lines along Elleg Avenue in Oleai.

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). **(PR)**

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Members of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. board of directors led by board chair Marcie M. Tomokane, corporate director Jesse S. Palacios, and deputy corporate director Zenie P. Mafnas, along with NMHC staff, present Breanna Oronigo, center, with a certificate of completion last July 21, 2021, recognizing her as the first graduate of NMHC's Family Self-Sufficient Program.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Oronigo is 1st graduate of NMHC's Family Self-Sufficiency program

Breanna Oronigo has been honored as the first graduate of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.'s Family Self-Sufficient Program, which is a voluntary program designed to assist families in becoming economically dependent.

The NMHC board of directors, corporate director Jesse S. Palacios, and deputy corporate director Zenie P. Mafnas, along with NMHC staff, presented Oronigo with a certificate of completion last July 21, 2021.

With the support of local agencies, FSS combines case management, education, job training, and ongoing support to aid a family in improving their lives and to achieve complete financial independence within five years. The main requirements are the desire to become self-sufficient and a commitment to take the steps necessary to make this happen.

Eligible participants are those who are currently receiving rental assistance through the Housing Choice Voucher Program and are the head of household and 18 years of age or older.

A great benefit to the FSS program is that recipients, who pay a rent share, receive an interest-bearing escrow account. The account accrues as the household's portion of rent increases because of an increase in earned income. The account is held until the participant successfully completes the contract.

Oronigo, with a household of six, was an HCVP recipient for a year when she voluntarily enrolled into the FSS program in February 2018. Since then, she worked diligently with housing specialist Nanette Palacios and FSS coordinator Doraine Camacho in meeting her program goals.

Oronigo, the head of household, and her spouse, Dalmacio Damian, were proactive in seeking employment, which was their foremost goal. With patience and the drive to successfully complete the program, Oronigo was able to gain employment as a statistical technician with the CNMI

Department of Commerce in March 2018, and her spouse was also able to secure a job with Docomo Pacific Saipan in November 2018. They devoted time and effort to be self-sufficient and independent, so that they aren't reliant on welfare assistance for the rest of their lives. Both Oronigo and her spouse wanted to set an example for their children that with hard work and determination, they are able to achieve self-sufficiency and economic independence.

One of the ways to complete an FSS contract is when 30% of the participant's adjusted income exceeds the HUD fair market rent for the household.

With Oronigo's and Damian's added income into the household, their contract was deemed completed, and therefore have graduated from the FSS program. "To everyone I have met and interacted with from NMHC, for the past three and a half years, you all played a role in my life and were a part of this journey that I achieved successfully," Oronigo said. "I wholeheartedly thank you."

During the presentation, NMHC board chair Marcie M. Tomokane and other board members conveyed their congratulatory remarks to the family and commended them for their outstanding achievement. "This is a monumental moment for NMHC and Ms. Oronigo and her family. We are extremely proud of Ms. Oronigo for being the first participant to complete the FSS Program. She truly represents determination, motivation, and the grit to accomplish her goals," said Tomokane.

NMHC continues to encourage HCVP participants to enroll in the FSS program and continue to work with the current 30 households to successfully complete the program, so that such families, aside from becoming self-sufficient, are also able to increase financial and housing stability. In Oronigo's case, she can use the money she received from the FSS program to purchase new appliances and furniture for her family's new house. (PR)



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Opinion

Hafa Adail

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 149

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,

Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI

Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL



The path to wider adoption of vaccines runs through employers

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio was moving in the right direction last week when he tried to coax city health employees to get COVID-19 vaccinations and beat back rising delta variant infections by requiring unvaccinated personnel to undergo weekly tests for the virus. Refusal will trigger unpaid suspensions. We called it weak medicine that didn't go far enough, and on Monday he corrected himself, extending the same rule to every municipal worker, from cops to sanitation workers to parkies. Also on Monday, California took essentially the same step.

The state of New York should follow suit, as should the feds. The goal isn't to increase testing, but to ensure wider adoption of vaccines, which are the best tool we have to arrest the plague. Masking and tests have their uses, but only vaccines can win this war.

As we've learned the hard way with COVID-19, it moves very fast and days—nay, hours—matter. A five-day lag in the updated policy is not good, but delaying the full citywide implementation for six weeks is terrible. The health care workers start under the new reality on Aug. 2. It's not until two weeks later that the mandate will cover staff in congregate and residential settings. Everyone else gets to wait until Sept. 13. Move that timetable up.

The unions claim that it's a matter of bargaining. No it isn't; it's a matter of public health and life and death. Did their predecessors seek to negotiate the smallpox and polio vaccines?

De Blasio is also correct when he urges private employers to require vaccines of their workforce. Ideally, we would like all to present an ultimatum: "No Jab, No Job"—with medical exemptions, of course, and religious exemptions if necessary, though we don't know any faith that prefers viral infection to viral protection.

We trust that the FDA will soon, we hope very soon, grant full authorization for the shots. But stronger steps to protect the public need not wait for that. If another wave is coming, we don't have to sit here and take it.

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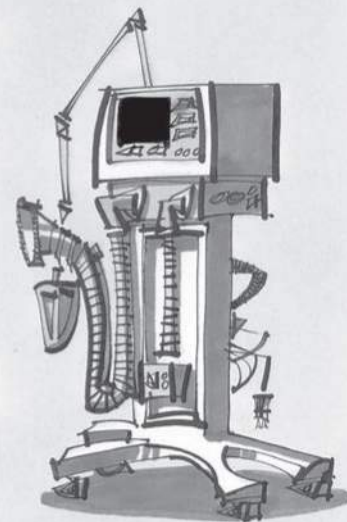
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The first and now the last best hope of the Arab Spring is at risk

Amid Tunisia's political upheaval, it is easy to hear echoes of the events in Egypt eight years ago. In the summer of 2013, widespread protests against an unpopular Islamist government allowed General Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi to take power in what amounted to a coup.

Tunisia's President Kais Saied may not wear military fatigues, but he's doing a pretty good el-Sissi impression nonetheless: Taking advantage of demonstrations against an unpopular Islamist-backed government, he has suspended the country's elected parliament and sacked the prime minister, effectively assuming dictatorial authority over the country.

Only months ago, Tunisia was being celebrated anew as the only country that remained a democracy in the decade after the Arab Spring. There is a real risk the gains secured then may now be lost, just as they were in Egypt. The task of forestalling that dreadful outcome falls again to the Tunisians who overthrew their dictator in January 2011, and to the two institutions that played pivotal roles back then: the military and the labor unions.

The military had refused the dictator's orders to crack down on the protests, and the labor organizations had ensured a smooth transition to civilian rule—for which four groups, known collectively as the National Dialogue Quartet, were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2015.

How will the forces that coalesced during the Arab Spring respond to this summer of discontent? The early signs are not good.

Saied's power grab has been welcomed in the streets by the anti-government protesters. Fed up by the serial failures of the leaders they elected—unemployment, one of the root causes of the Arab Spring, remains rampant—many Tunisians are inclined to give their president the benefit of the doubt. He has portrayed himself as incorruptible and unconnected to the political parties that have let them down. He says he will appoint a new prime minister, but didn't say when. Nor has he indicated when or if parliament would be reconvened.

He also seems to have coopted the military, giving it the crucial responsibility for administering the national vaccination program last week. The generals, having fallen in lockstep behind the president, can expect to be rewarded with even more responsibilities in the days ahead.

The Tunisian General Labour Union, the country's largest, most powerful labor organization and one of the four Nobel winners, has adopted a wait-and-see posture. Better known by its French acronym UGTT, it has issued only a vague statement about the importance of "constitutional legitimacy" and the need for national dialogue.

But all three forces—the protesters, the military and the

By **BOBBY GHOSH**

Bloomberg Opinion

Bobby Ghosh is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He writes on foreign affairs, with a special focus on the Middle East and Africa.



unions—will face tougher tests in the days ahead. The political forces that dominate parliament have denounced Saied's actions as a coup. It is only a matter of time before Ennahda, the main Islamist party, and secular groups mount demonstrations of their own.

The protesters who celebrated the suspension of democracy will then have to decide whether they will return to the street to defend the president, triggering a face-off with great potential for violence. If he sticks to the el-Sissi playbook, Saied will order a crackdown against his opponents, putting the military in a familiar quandary of whether to protect the people or the president.

But most likely, the decisive part will be played by the unions. The presence of strong, politically active civil-society institutions was the key differentiator between Tunisia and Egypt in the aftermath of the Arab Spring, and it might be decisive again. Much will depend on the disposition of the UGTT, which represents most of the country's civil service and has a demonstrated capacity to bring all of Tunisia to a standstill.

This gives it the power, if it is so minded, to prevent Saied from fully reprising el-Sissi's repression of the political opposition. That's why Ennahda's leader, Rachid Ghannouchi, in his first reaction to Saied's announcement, appealed to the UGTT's secretary general, Nouredine Taboubi, "to restore democracy."

To do so would require exercising some muscle memory. Since it was ennobled in 2015, the UGTT has receded into its role as a union. More often than not, it has been a hindrance to progress in Tunisia, standing foursquare against much-needed economic reforms such as paring down the civil service and selling off state enterprises.

But its leadership takes great pride in its history as an anti-colonial force before Tunisia's 1956 independence from the French, and in its more recent function as a check on government power. As one top leader told me two years ago: "UGTT is different from any union in the world. We fight not just for bread and clothing, but for national dignity."

It's time for the UGTT to suit up for that fight again.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

EXPLAINER**Employers have legal right to mandate COVID shots**

By **MAE ANDERSON and RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The state of California. New York City. Hospitals and nursing homes. Colleges and universities. Employers are putting COVID-19 vaccine mandates into place and it's getting attention.

On Tuesday, President Joe Biden said a requirement is under consideration for all federal employees. But what happens if workers refuse?

Federal legal guidance out this week suggests the law is on the side of employers. Vaccination can be considered a "condition of employment," akin to a job qualification.

That said, employment lawyers believe many businesses will want to meet hesitant workers half-way.

Can employers require a coronavirus vaccine?

Yes. Private companies and government agencies can require their employees to get vaccinated as a condition of working there. Individuals retain the right to refuse, but they have no iron-clad right to legal protection.

"Those who have a disability or a sincerely held religious belief may be entitled to a reasonable accommodation under civil rights laws, so long as providing that accommodation does not constitute an undue hardship for the employer," said Sharon Perley Masling, an employment lawyer who leads the COVID-19 task force at Morgan Lewis.

Employees who don't meet such criteria "may need to go on leave or seek different opportunities," she added.

The U.S. Justice Department addressed the rights of employers and workers in a legal opinion this week. It tackled an argument raised by some vaccine skeptics that the federal Food, Drug & Cosmetic Act prohibits employers from requiring vaccination with shots that are only approved for emergency use, as coronavirus vaccines currently are.

Department lawyers wrote that the law in question requires individuals be informed of their "option to accept or refuse administration" of an emergency use vaccine or drug. But that requirement does not prohibit employers from mandating vaccination as "a condition of employment."

The same reasoning applies to universities, school districts, or other entities potentially requiring COVID-19 vaccines, the

lawyers added. Available evidence overwhelmingly shows the vaccines are safe and effective.

The Justice Department opinion followed earlier guidance from the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that federal laws prohibiting discrimination in the workplace "do not prevent an employer from requiring all employees physically entering the workplace to be vaccinated for COVID-19."

The EEOC listed some cases in which employers must offer exemptions. People who have a medical or religious reason can be accommodated through alternative measures. Those can include getting tested weekly, wearing masks while in the office, or working remotely.

Who is requiring the vaccine?

The Department of Veterans Affairs on Monday became the first major federal agency to require health care workers to get COVID-19 vaccine. Also on Monday, the state of California said it will require millions of health care workers and state employees to show proof of a COVID-19 vaccination or get tested weekly. And New York City will require all of its municipal workers—including teachers and police officers—to get coronavirus vaccines by mid-September or face weekly testing.

Raising expectations, Biden said Tuesday that a vaccine requirement for all federal workers is "under consideration right now." He promised to lay out next steps for his administration's stalled vaccination campaign later this week.

"The more we learn about this virus and the delta variation, the more we have to be worried and concerned," the president said, adding that if another 100 million Americans were vaccinated "we'd be in a very different world."

The push for vaccines has been piecemeal in the corporate world. Delta and United airlines are requiring new employees to show proof of vaccination. Goldman Sachs is requiring its employees to disclose their vaccination status, but is not requiring staffers to be vaccinated.

Michelle S. Strowhiro, an employment adviser and lawyer at McDermott Will & Emery, said there are costs for employers requiring vaccines. There's the administrative burden of tracking compliance and managing exemption requests. Claims of discrimination could also arise.

But ultimately, the rise in the delta variant and breakthrough cases in fully vaccinated people has "served as extra motivation for employers to take a stronger stand on vaccination generally,"

she said. "Employers are going to be looking toward vaccine mandates more and more."

Is there any other alternative to mandates?

Instead of requiring vaccines, some companies are trying to entice workers by offering cash bonuses, paid time off and other rewards. Walmart, for example, is offering a \$75 bonus for employees who provide proof they were vaccinated. Amazon is giving workers an \$80 bonus if they show proof of vaccination and new hires get \$100 if they're vaccinated.

What are the options for employees if they don't want to take the vaccine?

Most employers are likely to give workers some options if they don't want to take the vaccine. For example, New York City and California have imposed what's being called a "soft mandate"—workers who don't want to get vaccinated can get tested weekly instead.

If an employer does set a hard requirement, employees can ask for an exemption for medical or religious reasons. Then, under EEOC civil rights rules, the employer must provide "reasonable accommodation that does not pose an undue hardship on the operation of the employer's business." Some alternatives could include wearing a face mask at work, social distancing, working a modified shift, COVID-19 testing or the option to work remotely, or even offering a reassignment.

Will workplace mandates turn the tide on vaccine hesitancy?

It's too early to tell.

"Every employer that decides to mandate vaccination paves the way for other employers to feel safer doing so," said Masling.

A recent legal decision may help move the needle. In June, a federal district court in Texas rejected an attempt by medical workers to challenge the legality of Houston Methodist Hospital's vaccine mandate. The court found such a requirement in line with public policy.

Dorit Reiss, a law professor who specializes in vaccine policies at the University of California Hastings College of the Law, said "more businesses will have confidence they can mandate the vaccine."

She believes most companies will go the route of a soft mandate, with alternatives for employees who remain reluctant.

"I think it's a reasonable option," she said.

3 reasons the new CDC mask guidance makes sense

Just two months after the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it was generally safe for those vaccinated against COVID-19 to drop their masks, the agency switched course and now recommends that even the inoculated wear face coverings indoors in areas where the highly transmissible delta variant is spreading rapidly.

The guidance change may provoke some whiplash—and it's already generated some backlash, if social media is any measure—but it makes sense. Here's why.

SPREAD RISK: The biggest reason to encourage wearing masks is to protect others, many of whom are still unvaccinated. The CDC justified its initial rollback with data that suggested vaccinated people were less likely to transmit the virus. But that was before the delta variant emerged. Delta spreads faster because it evades protective antibodies and grows more copies of itself, likely contributing to lower protection against symptomatic infection by even highly effective mRNA vaccines. There isn't definitive data to confirm it yet, but if vaccines are less effective at wiping out delta and there's more of it, it's only logical to expect more transmission. The CDC's decision was based in part on data suggesting that vaccinated people infected with delta who transmit to others had higher viral loads, according to a Tuesday news conference led by Director Rochelle Walensky. Viral load is key to transmissibility, and it was lower in vaccinated people who contracted

other strains. The CDC finding dovetails with a preprint study of breakthrough infections in India, which found that vaccinated people infected with the delta variant had higher respiratory viral loads and were more likely to spread Covid than those infected with other strains. Fortunately, the variant is not any better at getting around physical barriers such as masks, which are especially effective at stopping transmission.

PERSONAL SAFETY: The risk of a COVID-19 infection rises in the face of delta and growing case counts, even for people with two shots. While the chances of a bad outcome for any vaccinated individual are low, they aren't zero. Israel reports about 90% efficacy against severe disease and hospitalization for the mRNA vaccine made by Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE. That's lower than the rate seen in clinical trials, which you'd expect in the real world. But it does mean that if there are thousands of cases of COVID-19 among vaccinated individuals, we will see more deaths and hospitalizations among this group, even if the proportion is drastically lower than in the unvaccinated. Wearing masks doesn't just reduce the risk of infection—it also limits the amount of virus encountered when it doesn't provide complete protection, leading to better disease outcomes.

JUST FOR NOW: The delta outbreak in India earlier this year was exceptionally deadly, highlighting the risk of the variant. But it was also comparatively short; the country's surge be-

By MAX NISEN

Bloomberg Opinion






Max Nisen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering biotech, pharma and health care. He previously wrote about management and corporate strategy for Quartz and Business Insider.

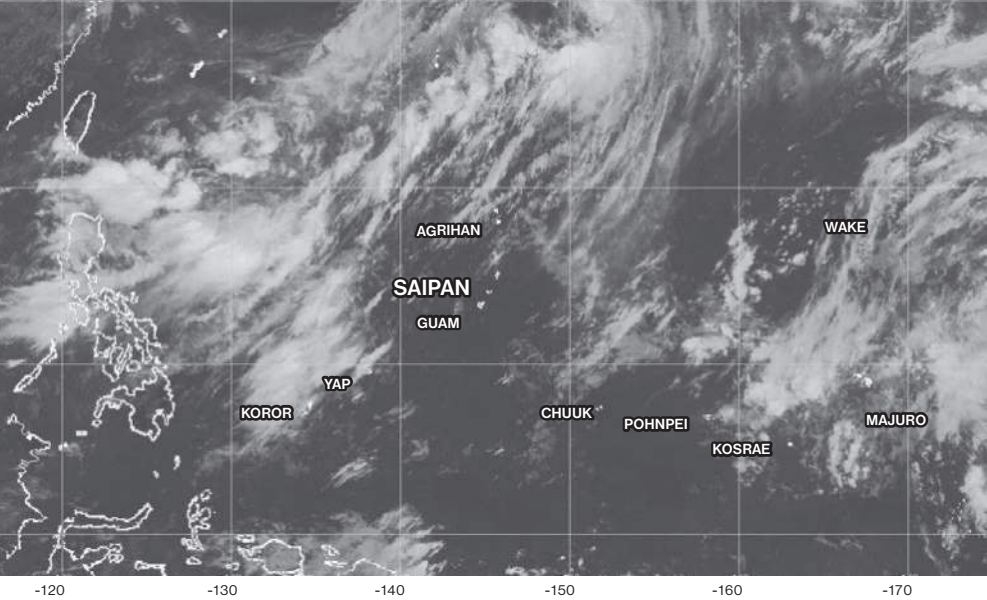


gan in March and it passed its infection peak in mid-May. The same dynamic may be occurring in the U.K., which is seeing cases drop, though its recent reopening means it's worth waiting a few weeks to see if the downward trend holds. While vaccinated people will account for a smaller proportion of both transmission and deaths there and in the U.S. as delta takes hold, margins matter, and masking in the highest-risk situations is a relatively easy way to help ensure the U.S. outbreak is shorter and less damaging. That will help masks go away more permanently sooner.

I can understand the frustration with this shift. It feels like mixed messaging from the CDC, which hasn't always been a model of consistency. But it's far better to have public health leaders willing to change their minds in response to changing evidence and stay ahead of the data instead of waiting too late.

The Weather

| 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|--|-----|---|-----|---|-----|--|-----|
| TODAY | | FRIDAY | | SATURDAY | | SUNDAY | | MONDAY | |
|  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds. | | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph. | | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. | | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. | | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. | |
| 86° | 74° | 86° | 74° | 86° | 74° | 86° | 74° | 86° | 74° |
| YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE | | | | | | | | | |



PICTURE TIME: 7:07 AM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

South to southeast winds and a few showers prevail over the Marianas this morning. A relative dry period is expected the next few days with an return to wetter conditions by the end of the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.


- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20



seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

| MICRONESIA | | | ▲▼°F |
|---------------|---------------|-----------|------|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorms | 86° / 79° | |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 85° / 77° | |
| Yap | Partly Cloudy | 87° / 78° | |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | 86° / 81° | |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 85° / 77° | |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 85° / 77° | |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | 85° / 80° | |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 5:58 AM | 6:48 PM |
| Friday | 5:58 AM | 6:47 PM |
| Saturday | 5:59 AM | 6:47 PM |
| Sunday | 5:59 AM | 6:47 PM |
| Monday | 5:59 AM | 6:46 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Today | - | 10:22 AM | 10:44 PM |
| Friday | - | 11:11 AM | 11:19 PM |
| Saturday | - | 11:58 AM | 11:55 PM |
| Sunday | - | 12:46 PM | - |
| Monday | 12:33 AM | 1:35 PM | - |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | | ▲▼°F |
|------------------|---------------|------------|------|
| Auckland | Partly Cloudy | 57° / 50° | |
| Beijing | Partly Cloudy | 91° / 75° | |
| Hong Kong | Thunderstorms | 90° / 82° | |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | 72° / 55° | |
| London | Partly Cloudy | 86° / 70° | |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | 92° / 72° | |
| Manila | Thunderstorms | 84° / 79° | |
| Melbourne | Windy | 55° / 46° | |
| Miami | Partly Cloudy | 89° / 83° | |
| New York | Partly Cloudy | 82° / 72° | |
| Osaka | Thunderstorms | 93° / 81° | |
| Paris | Mostly Cloudy | 75° / 61° | |
| Busan | Sunny | 90° / 81° | |
| Rome | Sunny | 106° / 79° | |
| Salem | Thunderstorms | 83° / 70° | |
| San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | 65° / 56° | |
| Seoul | Thunderstorms | 95° / 79° | |
| Tokyo | Mostly Cloudy | 84° / 75° | |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Sunny | 91° / 72° | |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | | FEET |
|----------------------------|-----------|------|------|
| 5:53 AM | Low Tide | 1.05 | |
| 10:51 AM | High Tide | 1.74 | |
| 5:37 PM | Low Tide | 0.49 | |
| - | - | - | |

| FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2021 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|---------|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|---------------------|-----------|----------|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| DEPARTURES | | | | | | | | ARRIVALS | | | | | | | |
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) | | | | | | | | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN | | | | | | | |
| UA117 | 6:30am | 7:10am | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 | | | | | UA174 | 4:50am | 5:31am | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 | | | | |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) | | | | | | | | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN | | | | | | | |
| UA117/183 | 6:30am | 8:50pm | 5 via Guam | | | | | UA184/174 | 9:50pm | 5:31am+1 | 5 via Guam | | | | |
| UA117/183 | 6:30am | 9:10pm | 3, 7 via Guam | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GUAM-MANILA (MNL) | | | | | | | | MANILA (MNL)-GUAM | | | | | | | |
| UA183 | 6:55pm | 8:50pm | 5 | | | | | UA184 | 9:50pm | 4:05am+1 | 5 | | | | |
| UA183 | 7:15pm | 9:10pm | 1, 3 | | | | | UA184 | 10:25pm | 4:20am+1 | 1, 3 | | | | |
| LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SAIPAN TO ROTA | | | | | | | | 1202 | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily | | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | | | | | 1203 | 9:00 | 9:15 | Daily | | | | |
| 1301 | 8:30AM | 9:00AM | Daily | | | | | 1204 | 10:00 | 10:15 | Daily | | | | |
| 1302 | 11:00AM | 11:30AM | Daily | | | | | 1205 | 11:00 | 11:15 | Daily | | | | |
| 1303 | 1:30PM | 2:00PM | Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri | | | | | 1206 | 12:00 | 12:15 | Temporarily Unavailable | | | | |
| 1304 | 3:30PM | 4:00PM | Daily | | | | | 1207 | 13:00 | 13:15 | Temporarily Unavailable | | | | |
| ROTA TO SAIPAN | | | | | | | | 1208 | 14:00 | 14:15 | Daily | | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | | | | | 1209 | 15:00 | 15:15 | Daily | | | | |
| 3101 | 9:30AM | 10:00AM | Daily | | | | | 1210 | 16:00 | 16:15 | Daily | | | | |
| 3102 | 12:00AM | 12:30AM | Daily | | | | | 1211 | 17:00 | 17:15 | Daily | | | | |
| 3103 | 1:30PM | 3:00PM | Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri | | | | | 1212 | 17:00 | 17:15 | Temporarily Unavailable | | | | |
| 3104 | 4:30PM | 5:00PM | Daily | | | | | TINIAN TO SAIPAN | | | | | | | |
| ROTA TO GUAM | | | | | | | | FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | | | | | 2101 | 7:30 | 7:45 | Temporarily Unavailable | | | | |
| 3401 | 12:15 | 12:45 | Temporarily Unavailable | | | | | 2102 | 8:30 | 8:45 | Daily | | | | |
| GUAM TO ROTA | | | | | | | | 2103 | 9:30 | 9:45 | Daily | | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | | | | | 2104 | 10:30 | 10:45 | Daily | | | | |
| 4301 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Temporarily Unavailable | | | | | 2105 | 11:30 | 11:45 | Daily | | | | |
| SAIPAN TO TINIAN | | | | | | | | 2106 | 12:30 | 12:45 | Temporarily Unavailable | | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | | | | | 2107 | 13:30 | 13:45 | Temporarily Unavailable | | | | |
| 1201 | 7:00 | 7:15 | Temporarily Unavailable | | | | | 2108 | 14:30 | 14:45 | Daily | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | 2109 | 15:30 | 15:45 | Daily | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | 2110 | 16:30 | 16:45 | Daily | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | 2111 | 17:30 | 17:45 | Daily | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | 2112 | 18:30 | 18:45 | Temporarily Unavailable | | | | |

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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Business

Feel good vibes at **Buenas Cafe**

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Buenas Café is a sanctuary for people who like good coffee and just want to cool down with a cup of joe or smoothies or hang out with family and friends to play billiards or belt out your favorite song in the karaoke room.

Tucked into a corner in San Antonio across the Afetna Supermarket, the café's laidback vibe will instantly cocoon you in that feeling of having come to the right place to take a break from the hustle and bustle of work or school.

According to café barista Mary Ann Perez, Buenas Café opened in January this year and is owned by long-time Korean business people on Saipan who are not new to the coffee shop business. "My boss has several coffee shops in Korea and she extended the coffee shop concept they have there to Saipan. We serve specialty coffee, smoothies, and Korean food that is not like a full meal but something to snack on with our drinks," she said.

She said Buenas Café caters to people

For more information, call (670) 235-7279.

who are on the go—those who just want to grab a drink, get a quick snack, and go—and to those who just want a place to hang out, where they can feel safe and have a good time.

"Everything is affordable. Our brew, smoothies, and food are tasty and our customers like our friendly service," she said.

Buenas Café is well-lit, spacious, with artsy tables and chairs, and nice wall knick-knacks—all with the goal to engage customers and make them comfortable.

The coffee list includes lattes, cappuccinos, fresh brew and their bestseller, caramel macchiato. Refreshing drinks like yogurt smoothies, fruit juices, milkshakes and black milk tea (which is a hit among the young crowd) are all available at less than



Buenas Café, established in January 2021, is a sanctuary for specialty drinks lovers.

BEA CABRERA

\$5. Food includes freshly baked, sandwiches, French fries, onion rings, chicken wings and favorite Korean bites such as tteokbokki with crispy seaweed roll and cheese tteokbokki.

"We charge no fee for the use of our pool tables. All they have to do is to order one drink of any kind," she said.

For the karaoke room, Buenas Café has special packages:

SET A is good for four people for only \$30 and offers 1 ½ hour karaoke time, four bottled water or two specialty drinks and French fries;

SET B is good for four people for only \$40 and offers 1 ½ hours karaoke

time, four bottled water or two specialty drinks, and choose between chicken wings and tteokbokki or onion rings and honey bread;

SET C is good for two people offer 30 minutes karaoke time and two drinks (blue lemonade or peach iced tea)

"We have free and strong WiFi for people who want to do some work or study in the café. The pool tables and karaoke are in different rooms so noise would not be an issue," Perez said.

Buenas Café is open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 7pm. Occasionally, they open on Sundays from 10am to 7pm.

For more information, call (670) 235-7279. You can also look them up on Facebook and Instagram: Buenas Café Saipan.



Good interiors will make you stay longer at Buenas Café.

BEA CABRERA

HAFA ADAI & TIROW

SUMMER JAM

SATURDAY, JULY 31, 2021
GUMA SAKMAN, SUSUPE, SAIPAN
3:00PM TO 10:00PM
Free Entry!
Live Bands! Food and Drink Sales!

MVA and ROAD TO 80 will be giving away up to \$5,000.00 in RAFFLE PRIZES
Must be Vaccinated to WIN
#VACCINATECNMI

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There are many drinks to choose from at Buenas Café.

BEA CABRERA

Nation

Man pleads guilty to 4 Asian spa killings, sentenced to life

CANTON, Ga. (AP)—A man accused of killing eight people, mostly women of Asian descent, at Atlanta-area massage businesses pleaded guilty to murder Tuesday in four of the killings and was sentenced to spend the rest of his life in prison.

Robert Aaron Long, 22, still faces the death penalty in the other deaths, which are being prosecuted in another county. The string of shootings at three businesses in March ignited outrage and fueled fear among Asian Americans, who already faced increased



Robert Aaron Long enters Superior Court of Cherokee County in Canton, Ga. on Tuesday, July 27, 2021.

hostility linked to the coronavirus pandemic. Many were particularly upset when authorities suggested Long’s crimes weren’t racially motivated but born of a sex addiction, which isn’t recognized as an official disorder.

Cherokee County prosecutors had planned to seek the death penalty but decided a plea deal would bring swift justice and avoid any lengthy appeals. That’s what the victims and their families who they were able to contact wanted, District Attorney Shannon Wallace said.

Bonnie Michels’ husband of 24 years, Paul, was the first person killed.

“A part of me died with him that day,” she told the judge. “I am shattered.”

Elcias Hernandez Ortiz, who was shot in the face, also addressed the court, saying it’s been very hard for his family.

“Honestly, this man, why didn’t he think before killing so many people? I only want justice,” he said through a Spanish translator.

On March 16, Long shot and killed four people, three of them women and two of Asian

descent, at Youngs Asian Massage in Cherokee County. A fifth person was wounded. Long then drove to Atlanta, where he shot and killed three women at Gold Spa before crossing the street to Aromatherapy Spa and killing another woman, police said. All of the Atlanta victims were of Asian descent.

In Atlanta, Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis has said she intends to seek the death penalty. There, Long faces charges of aggravated assault and domestic terrorism in addition to murder.

ACROSS THE NATION

CDC changes course on indoor masks in some parts of the US

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention changed course Tuesday on some masking guidelines, recommending that even vaccinated people return to wearing masks indoors in parts of the U.S. where the delta variant of the coronavirus is fueling infection surges. Citing new information about the variant’s ability to spread among vaccinated people, the

CDC also recommended indoor masks for all teachers, staff, students and visitors at schools nationwide, regardless of vaccination status.

Racism of rioters takes center stage in Jan. 6 hearing

It had only been hinted at in previous public examinations of the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection: Scores of rioters attacked police officers not just with makeshift weapons, stun guns

and fists, but with racist slurs and accusations of treason. Four officers, two from the U.S. Capitol Police and two from the D.C.’s Metropolitan Police Department, on Tuesday detailed the racism and bigotry they encountered during the violent assault on the Capitol. Their direct, harrowing accounts laid out the hours when the pro-police sentiment of Trump’s supporters was pushed aside, consumed by the fury of wanting to keep him in


the White House. Capitol Police Officer Harry Dunn told lawmakers about an exchange he had with rioters, who disputed that President Joe Biden defeated former President Donald Trump in the last presidential election. When Dunn, who is Black, argued with the rioters that he voted for Biden and that his vote should be counted, a crowd began hurling the N-word at him. (AP)

Western wildfires calm

down in cool weather, but losses grow

INDIAN FALLS, Calif. (AP)—Cooler weather on Tuesday helped calm two gigantic wildfires in the U.S. West, but a tally of property losses mounted as authorities got better access to a tiny California community savaged by flames last weekend and to a remote area of southern Oregon where the nation’s largest blaze is burning. Scientists say evidence shows Oregon’s Bootleg Fire generated its own

“fire tornado” this month, with winds higher than 111 mph (179 kph). The rare phenomenon is associated with extreme fire behavior spawned by dry, hot conditions, experts said. Meanwhile, teams reviewing damage from the massive Dixie Fire in the mountains of Northern California have so far counted 36 structures destroyed and seven damaged in the remote community of Indian Falls, said Nick Truax, an incident commander for the fire.




Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 052

Revised



Opening Date: July 20, 2021 • Closing Date: Until Filled

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| POSITION TITLE: | Trades Assistant |
| DEPARTMENT: | Tinian Water Division |
| LOCATION: | Tinian, Northern Marianas Islands, USA |
| ANNUAL SALARY: | \$16,742.00 - \$22,602.00 per annum, Non -Exempt |
| CONTRACT: | Not Contracted |
| POSITION(S): | Two (2) |

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Tinian Resident Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities.
- Performs daily well and pump station facility maintenance, cleaning and monitoring;
- Assists plumbing and chlorine maintenance crew;
- Utilizing digging equipment for locating and repairing leaks;
- Repairing and securing pressure reducer valves, main vales, service lines and laterals, and booster pumps;
- Assisting with meter installation and repair;
- Collecting water samples.
- Must be able to lift objects weighing at 40 lbs. or more.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS Diploma.

Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.


Licensing:

- Valid CNMI Driver’s License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.


How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

CUC-RAESP-21-029

A&E DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE SADOG TASI WWTP UPGRADE

(S20-078)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services of the Sadog Tasi WWTP Upgrade in Sadog Tasi, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

A **Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference followed by site visits** will be held on **July 22, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-RAESP-21-029, A&E Design Services for the Sadog Tasi WWTP Upgrade**”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 13, 2021. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 29, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; Westen Knudsen, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM B. GILMORE

Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN

Purchasing Administrator

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Bhutan fully vaccinates 90% of eligible adults within a week

GAUHATI, India (AP)—The Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan has fully vaccinated 90% of its eligible adult population within just seven days, its health ministry said Tuesday. The tiny country, wedged between India and China and home to nearly 800,000 people, began giving out second doses on July 20 in a mass drive that has been hailed by UNICEF as “arguably the fastest vaccination campaign to be executed during a pandemic.” In April, Bhutan grabbed headlines when its government said it had inoculated around the same percentage of eligible adults with the first dose in under two weeks after India donated 550,000 shots of AstraZeneca vaccine. But the country faced a shortage for months after India, a major supplier of the AstraZeneca shot, halted exports as it scrambled to meet a rising demand at home as infections surged.

Human Rights Watch: Israeli war crimes apparent in Gaza war

JERUSALEM (AP)—Human Rights Watch on Tuesday accused the Israeli military of carrying out attacks that “apparently amount to war crimes” during an 11-day war in May against the Hamas militant group. The international human rights organization issued its conclusions after investigating three

Israeli airstrikes that it said killed 62 Palestinian civilians. It said “there were no evident military targets in the vicinity” of the attacks. The report also accused Palestinian militants of apparent war crimes by launching over 4,000 unguided rockets and mortars at Israeli population centers. Such attacks, it said, violate “the prohibition against deliberate or indiscriminate attacks against civilians.” The report, however, focused on Israeli actions during the fighting, and the group said it would issue a separate report on the actions of Hamas and other Palestinian militant groups in August.

Russia OKs testing combination of Sputnik, AstraZeneca shots

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia’s health officials have given a go-ahead to testing a combination of the AstraZeneca coronavirus shot and the single-dose version of the domestically developed Sputnik V vaccine, according to the country’s registry of approved clinical trials. The small study, which was scheduled to start July 26 and end in March next year, will enroll 150 volunteers and look at the mixed regimen’s safety and capability to trigger immune response, records show. It will be conducted in five medical facilities in Moscow and St. Petersburg. AstraZeneca developed its vaccine with Oxford University. Sputnik V was developed by the state-run Gamaleya Center in Mos-

cow, and the Russian Direct Investment Fund bankrolled the project. Both shots use a similar technology, employing a harmless virus to deliver genetic material from the spike protein of COVID-19 into the body, which then prompts an immune response.

Thousands of foreigners leave Indonesia amid COVID-19 crisis

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Thousands of foreign-

ers have left Indonesia in recent weeks, airport records released Tuesday showed, apparently spurred by a brutal pandemic wave and a general shortage of vaccines, which have gone to high-priority groups first. Indonesia now has the most confirmed daily cases in Asia, as infections and deaths have surged over the past month and India’s massive outbreak has waned. Infections peaked in mid-July, with the highest daily average reported at more than 50,000

new cases each day. Until mid-June, daily cases had been running at about 8,000. Since early this month, nearly 19,000 foreign nationals have left through Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in the capital, Jakarta.

At least 2 killed in German chemical blast; 31 injured

BERLIN (AP)—An explosion at an industrial park for chemical companies in Germany killed at least two people

on Tuesday, with 31 others injured and several still missing hours later. Fire officials who tested the air said there did not appear to be a danger to nearby residents after authorities initially urged people to shelter inside. The explosion at the waste management facility of the Chempark site in Leverkusen, near Cologne, sent a large black cloud into the air. It took firefighters almost four hours to extinguish the fire that took hold after the explosion.

SAN NICOLAS LAW OFFICE, LLC (F0342)
Joey P. San Nicolas, Esq.
2nd Floor, Island Commercial Center, Room 203
Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai Village
P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, SAIPAN, MP 96950
Tel: 670-234-7659 | Fax: 670-234-9218
Email: jpsn@sannicolaslaw.net
Attorney for Administrator Joaquin P. Villagomez

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DIANA GUERRERO VILLAGOMEZ, Deceased.)
Civil Action)
No. 15-0170-CV)
NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Amended Petition for Decree of Final Distribution in the above-entitled matter will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 5th day of August, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., at Room 220, NMI Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Dated this 26th day of July, 2021.

PATRICK V. DIAZ
Clerk of Court

By: Deputy Clerk of Court

William M. Fitzgerald, Esq.
LAW OFFICES OF WILLIAM M. FITZGERALD
2nd Fl. Macaranas Bldg., Garapan Beach Road
P.O. Box 500909, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-7241
Fax: (670) 234-7530
Email: fitzgerald.law@gmail.com
Attorney for Petitioner Mari Chung Cepeda

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF TAE HYANG BANG, Deceased.)
CIVIL ACTION)
NO. 21-0209)
AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING

The petition of Mari Chung Cepeda, seeking to be appointed as Administrator of the Estate of Tae Hyang Bang, deceased, has been set for hearing before the Commonwealth Superior Court, on August 19, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Any person who has any objection to this petition may file his or her objection with the Commonwealth Superior Court at any time before the hearing, or may appear at the time set for hearing to present such objection or interest in the above-captioned matter.

DATED this 26th day of July, 2021.

PATRICK V. DIAZ
Clerk of Court

By: Deputy Clerk of Court



NORTHERN MARIANAS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 504880 Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No.: (670) 235-6684

BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING

NMTI Facility, Lower Base
July 30, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comments
- III. Unfinished Business
 - a. Establishing Advisory Committee to the Board
 - b. Appointing Chairpersons for Standing Committees
 - c. Status of Financial Documentation Requests from Board of Directors (Trades)
 - d. Update on Draft EDA Request For Proposal (RFP)
- IV. Chairman's Report
- V. Treasurer's Report
- VI. New Business
 - a. EDA Grant and Governor's NMTI Property Proposal
 - b. Board Special Fund for Governor's Proposed NMTI Incentivized Tuition
- VII. Executive Session
- VIII. Adjournment

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID

RFP NO.: DPW21-RFP-029

SUBMISSION DATE: August 24, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“Development and Implementation of a Pyrolysis Pilot on the island of Saipan”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **July 22, 2021** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on **August 10, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the **Solid Waste Transfer Station Conference Room 2nd Floor, Lower Base, Saipan**. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **August 17, 2021** to **Ms. Lorraine S. Villagomez, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, or **Blas T. Mafnas Acting Director of Solid Waste Management Division Lower base Transfer Station**, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM DR-4235, 4396, 4404-MP
PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Telephone: (670) 664-2374
Facsimile: (670) 664-2408

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO. RFP21-GOV-147

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 30, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M

“Supply, Delivery, and Installation of a Generator Set and Renovation of the Generator House for the Office on Aging in Saipan”

The project package will be available beginning **Thursday, July 29, 2021** at the Hazard Mitigation Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the Saipan Office on Aging Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan on Friday, August 13, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply for this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

/S/ David DLG Atalig
Secretary of Finance

**PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB21-DOF/CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE-133

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 16, 2021 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“(A) PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS “G” 4WD, TWO DOORS PICK-UP TRUCK (B) PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) CLASS “F” 4WD, FOUR (4) FULL DOORS PICK UP TRUCK (C) PURCHASE OF SIX (6) CLASS “I” 5-DOOR UTILITY VEHICLE (D) PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) ALL TERRAIN/RUGGED UTILITY VEHICLES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, DIVISION OF CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Environment

Supporting environmental projects through MINA's Green Gala

By IVA MAURIN
CORRESPONDENT

The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance honored environmental science teacher Tracy Burgess, PDM Promoters, and Hopwood Middle School for their nature stewardship initiatives at the last Green Gala. Who do you think should get the accolades this year?

After a break in the celebration last year due to CO-



MINA Tasi Watch community rangers Anthony Jr. Tenorio and Laurina Sebaklim engage the community with a "How long until it's gone?" solid waste activity at the Ocean Fair at the Civic Center in Susupe last June.

IVA MAURIN

VID-19, MINA's Green Gala is back, and is slated to be held on Sept. 10, Friday, at the Aqua Resort Club in Achugao.

The Green Gala is one of the major environmental fund-



MINA's David Benavente shows the student participants of Project HOPE of the Friends of the Mariana Trench how to dissect a sea urchin.

IVA MAURIN

raising events on island, where everyone can take part in raising critical funds needed to help protect and conserve the CNMI's natural resources.

"The Green Gala is MINA's largest fundraising event of the year and raises funds, enabling us to sustain our important work," MINA program director Becky Ada Furey said.

For the past year, despite the pandemic, MINA worked on building and strengthening local capacity involvement in natural resource management through its Tasi Watch program and, in partnership with local natural resource agencies, it promoted active community involvement in conservation efforts.

"We currently have 12 Tasi Watch community rangers that serve as the eyes and ears of environmental enforcement. MINA always has the goal with the Tasi Watch program to give our rangers a comprehensive set of skills, on-the-job experiences, and basic environmental values that will help prepare them for future careers in natural resource management and responsible leadership roles in their local communities," Furey said.

MINA, through its Schools for Environmental Conservation program, continues providing experiential environmental science learning to middle school students and teachers.

"Through experiential learning from these natural laboratories, students and teachers not only realize the critical role the CNMI's natural resources play in the islands' sustainability, but also promote and encourage environmental stewardship throughout the island. MINA has been leading this program since 2007," Furey said.

To encourage island climate change resiliency, MINA also continues to partner with community groups in planting native plants and trees, with the support of CNMI Forestry.

Aside from these core programs, MINA also installed last January 10 monofilament recycling bins around Saipan, for the fishing community to



A monofilament line bin where fishermen can place their used monofilament lines, to be collected and recycled.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

dispose of their used fishing lines; and hosted a marine debris contest at this year's 37th Annual Saipan International Fishing tournament where participants were challenged to collect any marine debris while fishing during the tournament.

"Our rangers also had the additional task to conduct weekly hauling of our Adopt-a-Bins located around Saipan. These public recycling bins help prevent trash from entering our waters," she added.

MINA also has begun work for the assessment, removal, and disposal of marine debris from Super Typhoon Yutu, specifically in areas of concern such as the Tinian Harbor, and coastal areas, shallow waters and reef lines that surround the islands of Tinian and southern Saipan, according to Furey. "The projected outcome of this effort will be the restoration of wildlife and endangered species habitats that are at risk of degradation caused by marine debris."

All these work from MINA are supported by project grants and generous contributions from local businesses and community members, and from fundraising events such as the Green Gala.

Tickets for the Green Gala are \$100 per person and can be purchased at the MINA office in Gualo Rai. To become a sponsor and for more information on the Green Gala, or MINA's various projects, contact 233-REEF (7333) or email minaoutreach@gmail.com.

TO MY ETERNAL LIFE

Hedwig Henry Atalig Hofschneider

LOVINGLY CALLED AS "DING BOY"

Born on November 02, 1984, **Hedwig** was called to his eternal home on Saturday, July 17, 2021. He now joins **his father Hedwig Villagomez Hofschneider; his paternal grandparents Henry Conrad Guileman Hofschneider and Ana Villagomez; his maternal grandparents Vendolino Masga and Estella Mendiola Cabrera Atalig.**

Hedwig will be greatly missed but his fond memories will be cherished forever by his mother, Emerenciana "Emy"; his sister Velma Ann and her husband Ricky I. Sanchez and their sons Jason Romeo and Jaden Hedwig; his sister Estelle Marie; his reared sister Delia Maratita and her husband Ramon "RB" Camacho and family; his Godparents Maria "Tita" Mendiola and Daryl Thomas Sutton and Godmother Jolly Ann Cruz. He will surely be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and close friends.

Hedwig was incredibly loyal and full of life, kind-hearted and generous. He was conscientious and hardworking as Director of the PROA Program at the Northern Marianas College dedicating much of his time to the PROA Team. **Hedwig** was also on the Board of Directors for the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, a Rotarian in the Rotary Club of Saipan, a director for the Saipan Natibu Lions Club, and was a fellow in the Pacific Century Fellows, Marianas Chapter. Hedwig enjoyed being with his family and friends and had a passion for helping and reaching out where help is needed, giving his time to the community, and at the end of the day, spending time with his mom.

Daily mass of intentions is offered at 6:00AM at Mount Carmel Cathedral and at 6:00PM at San Antonio Church, Saint Jude Church, and San Jose Church in Tinian.

Hedwig will be with us for the last time on Saturday, July 31, 2021, beginning at 7:45AM at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00AM followed immediately with the Rite of Committal at Mount Carmel Cemetery where we shall bid him farewell in his final resting place.

Your thoughts, prayers, and words of comfort are most sincerely appreciated.

Emy, Velma, Estelle, Delia and families

Life & Style

Bob Odenkirk collapses on 'Better Call Saul' set

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“Better Call Saul” star Bob Odenkirk collapsed on the show’s New Mexico set on Tuesday and had to be hospitalized.

Crew members called an ambulance that took the 58-year-old actor to a hospital, where he remained Tuesday night, a person close to Odenkirk who was not authorized to speak publicly on the matter told The Associated Press.

It was not immediately clear what caused the collapse, or how long Odenkirk might be hospitalized.

“Better Call Saul,” the spin-off prequel to “Breaking Bad,” has been shooting its sixth and final season, which is set to air on AMC next year.

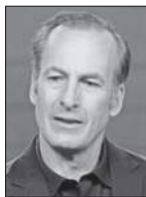
Like “Breaking Bad,” “Better Call Saul” is set in and mostly shot in Albuquerque.

An email sent to a representative of AMC seeking more

information or comment was not immediately returned.

Odenkirk has been nominated for four Emmys for playing the title character, a down-on-his-luck lawyer named Jimmy McGill who becomes increasingly corrupt and adopts the pseudonym Saul Goodman.

Michael McKean, Odenkirk’s co-star who played his



Odenkirk

brother on the show, was among many wishing Odenkirk well on social media.

“Sending huge love to our @mrBobOdenkirk,” McKean tweeted. “You got this, brother.”

Odenkirk’s hospitalization was first reported by TMZ.

Before the “Saul” role, which he also played on “Breaking Bad,” Odenkirk

was best known for “Mr. Show With Bob and David,” the sketch comedy series he co-created with David Cross that originally aired on HBO from 1995 to 1998.

He has won two Emmys, for his writing on “The Ben Stiller Show” and on “Saturday Night Live.” He has also appeared on HBO’s “The Larry Sanders Show” and in the films “The Post,” “Little Women” and “Nobody.”

Wu-Tang Clan album sale pays off Martin Shkreli’s court debt

NEW YORK (AP)—An unreleased Wu-Tang Clan album forfeited by Martin Shkreli after his securities fraud conviction was sold Tuesday for an undisclosed sum, though prosecutors say it was enough to fully satisfy the rest of what he owed on a \$7.4 million forfeiture order he faced after his 2018 sentencing.

The entrepreneur known as “Pharma Bro” once boasted that he paid \$2 million in 2015 at auction for “Once Upon a Time in Shaolin,” the 31-track double album the multiplatinum rap group spent six years creating.

“With today’s sale of this one-of-a-kind album, his payment of the forfeiture is now complete,” acting U.S. Attorney Jacquelyn M. Kasulis in Brooklyn said in a release.

Authorities said the sales contract for the album contained a confidentiality provision that protects information relating to the buyer and price.

In a civil case in Manhattan federal court, lawyers wrote in an April document that Shkreli had already reduced his forfeiture debt by about \$5 million.

Shkreli’s lawyer, Brianne E. Murphy, said she spoke to Shkreli late Tuesday and he said he is “pleased with the sale price and RIP ODB,” a reference to Russell Tyrone Jones, known as Ol’ Dirty Bastard, a founding member of the nine-man Clan who died of an accidental drug overdose in 2004.

Shkreli, 38, is scheduled for release in October 2022 after serving a seven-year prison sentence.

Hearing exposes TV viewers to blunt language, racial slurs

NEW YORK (AP)—People who watched the first day of a House investigation into the Jan. 6 uprising at the U.S. Capitol on Tuesday were exposed to the sort of blunt language, including profanity and racial slurs, rarely heard on daytime television.

The hearing featured emotional testimony from four police officers who defended the Capitol and video clips of violence and mayhem. It was shown live widely, but not uniformly, on several television networks.

Capitol Police Officer Harry Dunn, who is Black, said one rioter cursed him and called him the n-word, a phrase that was repeated and even chanted



U.S. Capitol Police Sgt. Harry Dunn, right, watches a video being displayed during the House select committee hearing on the Jan. 6 attack on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, July 27, 2021.

(OLIVER CONTRERAS/THE NEW YORK TIMES VIA AP, POOL)

at him. Dunn didn’t mask any language while describing it. Networks warned of graphic

material in onscreen messages.

In initial accounts of Dunn’s testimony, The Washington

Post, The New York Times and The Associated Press all mentioned the slur but did not spell

it out. CNN’s website linked to a video with the headline, “Capitol police officer recounts rioters calling him the n-word.” The video itself, after warning of graphic language, used Dunn’s full quotes.

Cable networks CNN, Fox News Channel and MSNBC carried the hearing, lasting more than three hours, in full. ABC pre-empted daytime programming to air most of it but not CBS and NBC. Instead of compelling their local stations to carry it, those networks said it was optional.

It wasn’t immediately clear how many CBS and NBC stations chose to air it, but those in the New York and Los Angeles markets did not.

Greek TV commentator fired for remark about SKorean athlete

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—A sports commentator in Greece who made an on-air remark about a South Korean athlete at the Tokyo Olympics that the station called racist has been fired, the country’s state-run broadcaster said Tuesday.

ERT television said it had ended its collaboration with veteran journalist Dimosthe-

nis Karmiris as a guest commentator following comments he made after Jeoung Youngsik beat Panagiotis Gionis of Greece in men’s table tennis.

Asked about the skill of South Korean table tennis players, Karmiris said “their eyes are narrow so I can’t understand how they can see the ball moving back and forth.”

Slipknot founding drummer Joey Jordison dies at 46

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Joey Jordison, a founding member of Slipknot, who drummed for the influential metal band in its most popular period and helped write many of its best-known songs, has died Monday at age 46, his family said.

“We are heartbroken to share the news that Joey Jordison,

prolific drummer, musician and artist passed away peacefully in his sleep,” his family said in a statement. “Joey’s death has left us with empty hearts and feelings of indescribable sorrow.”

No cause or place of death was provided.

Jordison grew up in Des Moines, Iowa, the eldest of three children, and began play-

ing drums at age 8. He was already a veteran of the city’s metal scene when he founded the band that would become Slipknot in 1995, along with percussionist Shawn Crahan and bassist Paul Gray.

The three talked plans and concepts for the band in sessions at the gas station where Jordison worked.

New living arrangement includes a proposition

DEAR ABBY: Six months into the pandemic I was furloughed, then laid off a few months later. Because of the loss of income, I could no longer afford my rent and was forced to move. It was tough finding anything affordable in the area. A good friend from college (“Josie”) and her husband own a big home with a detached guest house, and offered me the opportunity to rent for next to nothing until I found a new job. I was super happy about it because we are very close friends from college.

Josie, her husband and I often BBQ together and hang out watching movies. One night recently, Josie had to work late, and her husband and I had dinner and wine. We got pretty drunk, and I decided to turn in early. Before I went to bed, Josie’s husband asked me to have a threesome. He said Josie was going to ask me, but she was nervous about it, so she chickened out. I think my jaw must have hit the ground. I didn’t know what to say, so I told him I’d “think about it.”

A week has passed and Josie hasn’t mentioned anything about the threesome, but I’m scared to bring it up. I don’t know if her husband was telling the truth. They MAY want a threesome, but I’m not into it. If I say “no” it might make things weird between us. What should I do? Should I ask Josie about it, or move out back home with

my parents till I find a new job?

NOT WHAT I BARGAINED FOR

DEAR NOT: The husband’s drunken proposition has already made things weird, but let it go—for now. I doubt this is something Josie is “too chicken” to ask you. IF he raises the subject again, make it plain that you are not into threesomes and not to ask again. If he presses further, inform your old college chum, pack your bags and go to your parents’.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

DEAR ABBY: My husband’s daughter “Crystal” is married to “Jeremy,” who is a racist. I know this because of comments he has made over the past five years. At our only granddaughter’s first birthday celebration, my husband and Jeremy got into a heated argument (a little politics, a little racism). Since we live out of state, we were supposed to stay with them, but we had to leave. Jeremy started screaming at my husband, calling him a pedophile and some other awful names.

Crystal is demanding an apology from us and refuses to communicate or send photos of the baby until he does. My husband feels that Crystal’s mind is made up and she will defend her husband no matter what, so there’s no point. I hate that we’re at an

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



impasse. She has cut me off as well. Do you have any suggestions?
CUT OFF IN THE SOUTH

DEAR CUT OFF: Crystal, whose views on race seem to coincide with her husband’s, has you sidelined already. When your husband craves contact with his daughter and his grandchild, he will hold his nose, reach out and offer to mend fences. Until that happens, listen to what he is telling you and stay out of this mess.

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



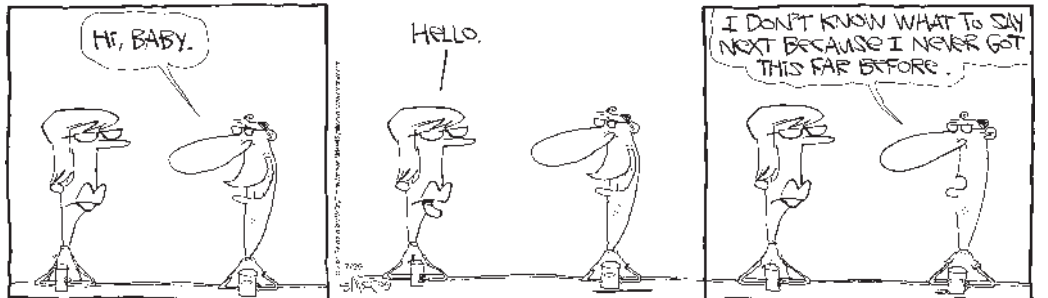
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Beloved" author Morrison
5 Tax prep pro
8 Roman 301
12 Ready for customers
13 Actor Holbrook
14 Melville's obsessed captain
15 Tidy
16 Nay
17 Sitarist Shankar
18 Patisserie buy
20 Sounded the hour
22 Govt. health org.
23 Short do
24 Denomination
27 "Sure thing!"
32 "How frustrating!"
33 Satisfied sigh
34 Football filler
35 John of "Grease"

DOWN

1 Vocal quality
2 Oil
3 Actress Patricia
4 Unbroken
5 Barbecue fuel
6 Remit
7 Sir
8 Len of "Blue Bloods"
9 Light-weight shirt
10 Grotto
11 Foot-note abbr.
19 Freudian concept
21 Showtime rival
24 Bootcamp VIP
25 Listening device
26 "Friends" friend
28 Blubber
29 Online talk site
30 Polite address
31 Before
36 Holds dear
37 "So that's it!"
38 Large constrictor
41 "That's a laugh!"
42 "Coffee Cantata" composer
43 Ranch measure
44 Rain delay cover
46 "Rock"
47 Hurler Hershiser
48 Pinta's companion
51 Ms. Farrow

Solution time: 24 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
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| A | S | P | S | B | O | B | I | D | E | A |
| P | L | O | P | R | O | S | E | A | M | |
| P | O | L | H | A | L | L | A | V | E | |
| T | E | P | I | D | T | R | A | D | E | S |
| | C | I | O | T | I | M | P | | | |
| W | A | G | E | T | O | R | O | R | A | |
| E | K | F | S | T | P | A | T | O | O | I |
| R | A | N | C | O | A | I | J | I | T | |
| | F | A | U | Z | I | T | I | | | |
| R | E | P | L | T | E | | E | S | T | E |
| A | L | O | T | | P | O | L | C | U | E |
| S | H | O | O | | E | V | A | | U | R |
| A | I | L | S | | E | A | R | | S | K |

Yesterday's answer 7-29

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Munro Chambers, 31; Genesis Rodriguez, 34; Jason Belmonte, 38; Martina McBride, 55.

Happy Birthday: Put what you know to good use. Revive old ideas, make updates and encourage stability as you move forward. Look at the possibilities, but make only the changes that fit into your schedule. Incorporate discipline and integrity into everything you do to avoid backlash. Worry less about others and more about your physical well-being. Your numbers are 6, 17, 21, 24, 35, 44, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Set the pace before someone else does. Look for an opening to showcase what you have to offer. Make a change based on facts, not hearsay. A serious discussion will help establish your next move. Keep personal finances a secret. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Investigate the best way to improve your surroundings without going over budget. Refuse to let someone push you into something you may not need. Know what you want and say what's on your mind. Channel your energy into love, fitness and happiness. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look for the best opportunity and get started. Discuss your plans with people in the know who can offer valid suggestions. A show of patience and reliability will help you overcome any negativity that comes your way. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Control your emotions and concentrate on your responsibilities. Tie up loose ends, and play it safe when it comes to health, finances and

contracts. Have a target in mind, and don't budge. Don't rely on others; do your own thing. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Choose your words carefully to avoid being misinterpreted. Less drama and more facts will help get your point across. Handle your money with care. Being overly generous won't buy respect or love. Lower your overhead, and don't pay for others. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Channel your energy and enthusiasm into the changes you desire, and you'll feel jubilant. The detail you offer will lead to opportunities that will help you advance. Take the initiative; less talk and more action will encourage productivity and positive change. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Mix business with pleasure, and it will help you develop a good rapport with your peers and insight into something that interests you. A chance to advance will evolve from a conversation you have with someone in an important position. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Look past the obvious, and you'll find a passage that leads to personal or spiritual growth. A transformation will encourage you to do things differently. Focus on what makes you happy, not what makes you rich. Romance is in the stars. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Pay attention to health and money matters. If you rush into something, you'll have regrets, and if you hesitate, you'll miss an opportunity. Balance, integrity and good timing will be necessary to get ahead. Recognize and dismiss

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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interference. *****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A problem with a friend or relative will cause stress and worry. Look for alternative ways to help someone you care about without it costing you financially or emotionally. Put your health and well-being first. A personal contract looks promising. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A serious approach to how you earn or handle your cash will pay off. Discussions regarding what you want and your direction will lead to valuable feedback and the push you need to get ahead. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): It's up to you to make a change. Sitting around waiting for something to transpire will lead to depression and disappointment. Step up and act, or you will have no one to blame but yourself. Look, see and do. ***

Birthday Baby: You are enthusiastic, generous and charming. You are curious and thoughtful.

☺ Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☹ You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼ Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼ Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼ Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 4 | | 2 | 9 | | 6 | 3 | | |
| 8 | | | | 7 | | | | 2 | |
| 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| | 5 | | 1 | 2 | | | | 6 | |
| 4 | | | | | | | | 7 | |
| 9 | | | 6 | | 4 | | 1 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| 5 | | | 3 | | | | | | 8 |
| | 7 | 3 | | 5 | 1 | | 4 | | |

Difficulty Level ★★★

7/29

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| 4 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 5 |
| 7 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 1 |
| 5 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 3 |
| 2 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 4 |
| 8 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| 6 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| 1 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 6 |

Difficulty Level: ★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BOBCAT MACHINES

Solution: 9 letters

S B B A L L A S T O R Q U E S
N R S E K A R B L A D E H L R
O E E C S E N I L E B U T P E
W A T L L E V E R Y W O L P D
B K O A D A U G E R I D E A A
L E O R L N M G R I N D E R O
O R L G A D A P N S E T A G L
W H C E D N U H S I N R T E S
E E A A E M T W E E T H U R U
R A T N P N E E M L R F O E T
A D X S D E G P N O E T I L I
D R U L P L I I T N C T L L L
I E M E E U E T N A A I C I I
O S R S Q S L S R E S E A T T
S T E E R E T T U C A N O P Y

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7/29

Antenna, Arms, Auger, Axles, Ballast, Blade, Brakes, Breaker, Canopy, Clamps, Cutter, Engine, Equipment, Fuel, Gates, Grapple, Grinder, Handles, Headrest, Large, Lever, Lifting, Loaders, Pedal, Plow, Pumps, Radio, Ride, Seat, Snowblower, Steer, Sweeper, Telehandlers, Throttle, Tiller, Toolcat, Torque, Tractors, Tube Lines, Utility

Yesterday's Answer: Dare To Dream

The NEW Treasury 43 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6430.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Rough day for stars Simone Biles, Naomi Osaka at Olympics



T O K Y O

(AP)—Simone Biles came into the Olympics as perhaps the biggest star of the Games. Naomi Osaka was such a big headline act that she was given the honor to light the Olympic flame in her native country.

In a matter of just hours on Tuesday, Osaka was knocked out early from the Olympic tennis tournament and Biles pulled out of the gymnastics team competition when she realized following a shaky vault she wasn't in the right headspace to compete.

"I didn't want to go into any of the other events second-guessing myself," Biles said. "So I thought it would be better if I took a step back and let these girls go out there and do their job."

Biles is scheduled to defend her Olympic title in the all-around final on Thursday. She also qualified for all four event finals later in the Games. Whether she will get that opportunity remains to be seen.

The team representing the Russia Olympic Committee surged past the short-handed U.S. to the top of the podium, posting a score of 169.258 to win the country's first Olympic team gold in nearly 30 years.

The Americans hung on for silver and Great Britain won bronze.

Osaka, who was born in Japan and grew up in the United States, struggled with her usually reliable groundstrokes and lost 6-1, 6-4 in the third round to former French Open finalist Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic.

"I definitely feel like there was a lot of pressure for this," Osaka said. "I think it's maybe because I haven't played in the Olympics before and for the first year (it) was a bit much. I think I'm glad with how I played, with taking that break that I had."

Osaka, who lit the Olympic cauldron in Friday's opening ceremony, won her opening two matches in straight sets following a two-month mental-health break.

GO FOR GOLD

Japan won its second straight Olympic softball gold medal, beating the United States 2-0 in an emotional repeat of their 2008 victory in Beijing that again left the Americans in tears.

Yukiko Ueno took a one-hitter into the sixth inning five days after her 39th birthday, and Japan snuffed out an American rally attempt with an acrobatic double play in the sixth inning.

No. 9 batter Mana Atsumi had a run-scoring infield hit in



Coach Laurent Landi embraces Simone Biles, after she exited the team final with apparent injury, at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Tuesday, July 27, 2021, in Tokyo. AP

'I can die': Medvedev survives extreme heat at Tokyo Games

TOKYO (AP)—Bent over in exhaustion before serving. Resting on his racket between points. Grasping for a rubber tube blowing cool air next to his seat on changeovers. Two medical timeouts and one visit from a trainer.

Daniil Medvedev was struggling so much with the suffocating heat and humidity at the Ariake Tennis Park on Wednesday that at one point the chair umpire, Carlos Ramos, asked him if he could continue playing.

"I can finish the match but I can die," Medvedev replied. "If I die, are you going to be responsible?"

Still, the second-seeded Medvedev produced a 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 win over Fabio Fognini of Italy to reach the quarterfinals at the Tokyo Olympics.

The ROC player is going to need some time to recover from this one, though, and it raises questions over why organizers did not grant requests earlier in the tournament from Medvedev and other players—including top-ranked

Novak Djokovic—to move all of the tennis matches at the Games to the evening.

After some rain a day earlier, the temperature rose to 88 degrees F (31 degrees C) but the heat index made it feel like 99 degrees F (37 degrees C).

Medvedev received medical treatment for an apparent abdominal problem while leading 5-2 in the opening set but then held his serve in the next game to close it out. He then took another medical timeout while trailing 4-3 in the second.

Visibly suffering, Medvedev took his time between points, which drew protests from Fognini.

Both players were allowed to leave the court for 10 minutes between the second and third sets with an extreme heat rule in effect.

After holding for a 5-2 lead in the third, Medvedev received yet more medical treatment when a trainer came out onto the court and massaged his left arm and thigh.

Fognini slammed his racket

onto the court in disgust when the match was over, then picked the racket up and placed it in a court-side trash can.

Medvedev—if he's up to it—will next face sixth-seeded Pablo Carreno Busta of Spain for a spot in the medal rounds. Carreno Busta beat Dominik Koepfer of Germany 7-6 (7), 6-3.

In the women's tournament, fourth-seeded Elina Svitolina of Ukraine beat Camila Giorgi of Italy 6-4, 6-4 to reach the semifinals.

It's been quite a month for Svitolina, who married French player Gael Monfils before flying to Tokyo. Monfils was sitting courtside cheering on his new bride, having already been eliminated from both the singles and doubles tournaments.

The couple got married on July 16 but have delayed their honeymoon until November, when the tennis season ends.

Svitolina is the highest seeded singles player remaining after top-ranked Ash Barty, No. 2 Naomi Osaka and No. 3 Aryna Sabalenka

each lost. She'll next face either Paula Badosa of Spain or Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic for a spot in the gold-medal match.

Vondrousova eliminated Osaka on Tuesday.

Later, Djokovic was to play twice.

First, the top-ranked Serb was to face 16th-seeded Alejandro Davidovich of Spain for a spot in the quarterfinals of the singles tournament. Then he is scheduled to team up with Serbian partner Nina Stojanovic against Marcelo Melo and Luisa Stefani of Brazil in the opening round of the mixed doubles competition.

In singles, Djokovic is attempting to become the first man to achieve a Golden Slam by winning all four Grand Slam tournaments and Olympic gold in the same calendar year.

Djokovic has already won the Australian and French Opens plus Wimbledon this year, so now he needs the Tokyo Games title and the U.S. Open trophy to complete the unique collection.

They won 12 straight golds over the past six Olympics, including Murphy's sweep of the 100 and 200 back at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games.

"Winning an Olympic gold medal means you're the best in the world," Murphy said. "Being third in the world is no slouch."

STREAK EXTENDED

The U.S. women's basketball team opened play with an

81-72 win over Nigeria that extended the Americans' win streak at the Olympics to 50 games.

A'ja Wilson scored 19 points and grabbed 13 rebounds in her debut.

The U.S. came to Tokyo coming off two rare exhibition losses in Las Vegas earlier this month. The Americans also beat Nigeria by 31 points in that game.

This game was much closer and marked the first time that a team had come within single digits of the U.S. since Russia lost by four points in the semifinals of 2004 Athens Games.

MOVING ON

The United States made it through to the quarterfinals of the women's Olympic soccer competition after a 0-0 draw with Australia.

The Americans are looking to win a fifth Olympic gold medal in Tokyo. They are also vying to become the first team to win at the Olympics following a World Cup title.

But they've made it hard on themselves at the Tokyo Games. The U.S. team lost to Sweden 3-0 in its opening match—snapping a 44-game unbeaten streak—before rebounding with a 6-1 victory over New Zealand.

HISTORIC FIRST

Flora Duffy has won the Olympic women's triathlon, earning Bermuda's first gold medal ever and first medal of any kind since 1976.

Duffy is a two-time former world triathlon series champion. She's competing in her fourth Olympics and is one of just two athletes representing Bermuda in Tokyo.

The start of the race was delayed 15 minutes because of storm conditions around Tokyo Bay. Duffy pumped her arms over her head as she finished the swimming, cycling and running course in 1 hour, 55:36 minutes.

STRUGGLING CHAMPS

The expected Olympic showdown between the top two women's volleyball teams in the world turned out to be a one-sided affair.

The U.S. women swept defending gold medalist China 29-27, 25-22, 25-21 in a pool-play match that left the Americans at the top of Pool B and the Chinese seeking to win their first set of the tournament after two straight sweeps to open the Games.

China was also swept by Turkey in the opener but showed five years ago in Rio de Janeiro how little the pool-play matches can mean after losing three of five of them before rallying to win gold.

the fourth inning and Yamato Fujita lined an RBI single off Monica Abbott in the fifth in building a 2-0 lead.

ALASKA GOLD

Seventeen-year-old Lydia Jacoby of Alaska pulled off a stunning victory in the women's 100-meter breaststroke, upsetting American teammate and defending champion Lilly King.

"I was definitely racing for a medal. I knew I had it in

me," said Jacoby, who hails from the tiny town of Seward, which has a population of 2,733. "I wasn't really expecting a gold medal, so when I looked up and saw the scoreboard it was insane."

Only a handful of Alaska swimmers had even qualified for the U.S. Olympic trials. Jacoby was the first to ever make the team.

STREAK SNAPPED

The streak of 12 straight gold

medals for the U.S. men in the individual backstroke ended when a pair of Russians beat out defending Olympic champion Ryan Murphy in the 100-meter race.

Evgeny Rylov won the gold medal in 51.98 and teammate Kliment Kolesnikov took the silver in 52.00. Murphy settled for the bronze in 52.19.

It was the first backstroke defeat for the U.S. men at the Olympics since the 1992 Barcelona Games.

Riley drives in 6, chasing Braves pound Mets, 12-5



NEW YORK (AP)—Austin Riley hit a grand slam and a two-run homer to set a career high with six RBIs, powering the Atlanta Braves to a 12-5 rout of the New York Mets on Tuesday night.

Ozzie Albies and Abraham Almonte also had two-run homers for the Braves, who have won two of the first three in a five-game series as they chase the first-place Mets in the NL East. Dansby Swanson delivered a two-run double in the first inning to get Atlanta started.

Charlie Morton (10-3) allowed three runs and five hits with five strikeouts over five innings.

Mets spot starter Jerad Eickhoff (0-2) gave up 10 runs on seven hits and five walks in 3 1/3 innings. Jeff McNeil and Brandon Drury each hit a two-run homer for the Mets after they trailed 10-1 in the fourth.

Giants 2, Dodgers 1

In San Francisco, Buster Posey scored the tiebreaking run on a throwing error by first baseman Cody Bellinger in the eighth inning, and San Francisco beat Los Angeles, increasing its lead over the Dodgers in the NL West to three games.

Blake Treinen (2-5) walked Posey and Mike Yastrzemski to begin the eighth. Darin Ruf hit a grounder to second baseman Max Muncy, who began to chase Yastrzemski back toward first before throwing Ruf out.

Bellinger then pump-faked toward second before launching a throw well over third baseman Justin Turner's head and into the protective netting along the third base line. Posey, who was on his way to third, scored easily.

Posey had two hits and an RBI. Austin Slater also had two hits for San Francisco.

Bellinger singled and scored for the defending World Series champion Dodgers. Muncy was 1 for 4 in his first game back off the paternity list.

Tyler Rogers (2-1) retired three batters to get the win. Jake McGee pitched the ninth for his 21st save.

Nationals 6, Phillies 4

In Philadelphia, Trea Turner singled in the first inning and scored on Josh Bell's three-run homer that put Washington ahead to stay, but was then pulled from the victory over Philadelphia because of a positive COVID-19 test.

Juan Soto hit another three-run homer for the Nationals in the second.

Josh Harrison doubled and had two hits for the Nationals, who snapped a five-game losing streak but still have won only twice in their past 15 games.



Atlanta Braves' Austin Riley hits a two-run home run during the sixth inning of the team's baseball game against the New York Mets, Tuesday, July 27, 2021, in New York. AP

Bryce Harper hit his first career inside-the-park homer, doubled and drove in a pair of runs for Philadelphia.

Matt Moore (0-3) allowed six runs in six innings. Wander Suero (2-2), the second of four Washington relievers, retired all five batters he faced. Brad Hand finished it off for his 21st save.

Yankees 4, Rays 3

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Jordan Montgomery stopped an eight-start winless streak, Aaron Judge singled in his return from COVID-19 and New York beat Tampa Bay.

Montgomery (4-5) gave up five hits in five scoreless innings. The left-hander was 0-4 over his previous eight outings since beating Tampa Bay on June 2, despite allowing three or fewer runs seven times.

Aroldis Chapman, the fourth Yankees reliever, worked the ninth to get his 19th save in 23 chances.

Gio Urshela drove in two runs for the Yankees, including a two-run double in the sixth off Shane Bieber (4-4) that made it 3-0. Tampa Bay got a two-run homer from Brandon Lowe.

Cardinals 4, Indians 2

In Cleveland, Adam Wainwright won in his first appearance at Progressive Field, Paul DeJong hit a go-ahead homer and St. Louis beat Cleveland.

DeJong's two-out, two-run drive in the seventh inning off Bryan Shaw (3-5) put St. Louis in front 3-2. Harrison Bader homered, doubled twice and stole a base.

Wainwright (8-6) went seven innings and earned his 175th career victory. This was the 33rd stadium he's pitched in during regular-season play.

The 39-year-old Wain-

wright gave up four hits, including a two-run homer to José Ramírez.

Alex Reyes picked up his 24th save in 25 opportunities.

Brewers 9, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, Omar Narvaez homered and had four RBIs, Brett Anderson pitched six strong innings and Milwaukee scored eight runs in the first two innings against Pittsburgh.

Narvaez's two-run homer started a three-run first inning, and his two-run single highlighted a five-run second against Luis Oviedo (1-2), who was making his first major league start.

Anderson (3-5) yielded three hits while striking out three and walking one.

Miguel Sanchez, Hunter Strickland and Jandel Gustave pitched one inning each to finish the four-hitter, the Brewers' 11th shutout of the season.

Marlins 7, Orioles 3

In Baltimore, Sandy León hit a three-run homer in the second inning and Sandy Alcantara pitched into the seventh, helping Miami beat Baltimore.

Lewin Diaz and Brian Anderson added solo shots for Miami, which has won three straight. León singled and scored in the fourth.

Alcantara (6-9) allowed three runs and six hits in six-plus innings. He held Baltimore without a hit until Austin Hays led off the bottom of the fourth with a home run. Cedric Mullins also homered for the Orioles.

Spenser Watkins (2-1) allowed four runs and nine hits in four innings. He hadn't allowed more than a run in any of his first three big league starts.

White Sox 5, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Mo., Eloy Ji-

ménez logged his first big hit of the season, launching a go-ahead, three-run homer in the eighth inning that sent Chicago past Kansas City.

The 24-year-old slugger tore a pectoral muscle in spring training. He hadn't played in the majors until going 0 for 4 Monday night.

After hitting a single in his first at-bat, he came up in the eighth after a two-out intentional walk to Jose Abreu with Chicago trailing 3-2. Jiménez connected for a 459-foot drive to left-center off Kyle Zimmer (4-1) to cap a four-run rally.

The White Sox increased their AL Central lead to 9 1/2 games.

Reynaldo Lopez (1-0) picked up the win in relief. Liam Hendriks earned his 25th save.

Royals starter Brad Keller allowed one run on four hits over seven innings.

Rangers 5, Diamondbacks 4

In Arlington, All-Star slugger Joey Gallo hit a three-run homer and had two assists from right field as Texas snapped a 12-game losing streak with a win over Arizona.

Dane Dunning (4-7) allowed two runs on six hits in 6 1/3 innings. The right-hander struck out three and walked two while earning only his second win in his last 12 starts.

Ian Kennedy pitched a perfect ninth inning for his 16th save in 17 opportunities.

Taylor Widener (1-1) gave up all five runs on five hits, five walks and a hit batter.

Reds 7, Cubs 4

In Chicago, Joey Votto continued his power surge with two home runs and started a dazzling double play as Cincinnati topped Chicago.

nati topped Chicago.

Votto has homered in a career-high four consecutive games for the second time (April 2018), one game shy of the team record.

The Reds hit four home runs in winning for the third time in five games. Jesse Winker hit his 21st homer and Eugenio Suárez added a blast for Cincinnati.

The Cubs lost for the sixth time in their last 10. Anthony Rizzo had a two-run homer, and Patrick Wisdom and Kris Bryant added homers for Chicago.

Cincinnati rookie Vladimir Gutierrez (5-3) pitched 6 1/3 innings of five-hit ball to earn the win.

Cubs starter Adalberto Alzolay (4-11) allowed three home runs in five innings, increasing his National League lead to 23.

Tigers 6, Twins 5, 11 innings

In Minneapolis, Miguel Cabrera hit a run-scoring single in the 11th inning after Eric Haase tied the game with a grand slam with one out in the top of the ninth as Detroit snapped a four-game skid with a win over Minnesota.

Cabrera's hit scored automatic runner Jonathan Schoop.

The Tigers tied the score with a homer in the ninth inning for the second straight game. Robbie Grossman, who singled to start the ninth-inning comeback, hit a two-run homer on Monday night before Minnesota won 6-5 in 10 innings.

José Cisnero (2-4) got out of a 10th inning jam to earn the win for the Tigers, who snapped a four-game losing streak. Daniel Norris notched his first career save.

Rockies 12, Angels 3

In Anaheim, Calif., Shohei Ohtani hit his major league-leading 36th home run, one of the few highlights for the Los Angeles Angels in a 12-3 loss to the Colorado Rockies on Tuesday night.

Brendan Rodgers and pinch-hitter Sam Hilliard homered to back six effective innings from Austin Gomber as Colorado improved to 11-37 on the road.

Los Angeles trailed 10-0 in the fifth before Ohtani launched a 463-foot drive to center field for a two-run shot. The two-way sensation pitched seven strong innings Monday night and hit an RBI single in a 6-2 win over the Rockies.

Gomber (8-5) allowed two earned runs and five hits in six innings. He struck out seven and walked two.

The Rockies, who got 16 hits, scored four runs in the fourth to open a 9-0 lead.

Padres 7, Athletics 4

In San Diego, Fernando Tatis Jr. hit a monster 440-foot, two-run homer, Manny Machado added a three-run shot and Adam Frazier had two hits and two runs in his debut for the San Diego Padres, who rallied to beat the Oakland Athletics 7-4 on Tuesday night.

Jake Cronenworth hit a go-ahead, two-run single in a five-run fifth inning to help Chris Paddock (7-6) win his third straight start.

Tatis' NL-leading 31st homer was about as impressive as they come at Petco Park. The All-Star shortstop launched a 2-1 slider from rookie right-hander James Kaprielian into the Estrella Jalisco Landing, a seating area just below the video board that's perched atop the second deck in left field. He flipped his bat and did his stutter-step rounding third base to celebrate the two-out shot that pulled the Padres to 3-2 in the third.

Astros 8, Mariners 6

In Seattle, Abraham Toro homered for Seattle against the team that traded him across the diamond during batting practice, but the Houston Astros held off a ninth-inning rally to beat the Mariners 8-6 Tuesday night.

The playoff-contending Mariners made two trades during the day. They sent relievers Kendall Graveman and Rafael Montero to AL West-leading Houston for Toro and reliever Joe Smith, and later got starter Tyler Anderson from Pittsburgh for two minor leaguers.

Toro was taking his pre-game swings for Houston when he learned about the deal. The infielder walked to the other dugout, put on his new uniform and went back to the batting cage.

TSL Foundation is Presidential Suite sponsor for HANMI tourney

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation has lent its support as a Presidential Suite Sponsor for the 19th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament on Aug. 14, 2021 at Coral Ocean Resort in Saipan.

“We would like to congratulate the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands for being able to bring back the HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament this year. For nearly two decades, this event has donated portions of the tournament proceeds to community projects and other worthy causes. This year, their beneficiary is the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation is pleased to have the opportunity to help HANMI provide assistance for the CNMI’s hosting of the Mini Games for the first time,” TSL Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino said. “We encourage golfers and our business community to support the HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament and we wish every player good luck.”

“The Tan Siu Lin Founda-



Tan Siu Lin Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino, second left, assistant manager Raymond Zapanta, left, and administrative officer Rina Robles, right, present the ceremonial check donation for the 19th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament to tournament committee chair Glenn Policare, center, and HANMI media officer Catherine Perry on July 21, 2021, at the TanHoldings conference room in Garapan.

tion has been assisting our tournament for many years and we are excited to have them onboard once again,” said tournament committee chair Glenn Policare. “Promoting healthy lifestyles is at the core of their mission and what better way that to help with the charity classic!”

The tournament is open to

the first 144 paid registrants, and registration forms are available at www.saipan-hotels.org. The early bird tournament fee is \$120 and includes green fee and the awards luncheon. The fee in-

creases to \$140 after the early bird deadline on Friday, July 30, 2021, at 4pm.

For an additional \$30, players may also compete for optional play cash and prizes, including longest drive (male and female), accurate drive, and four chances for nearest to the pin. Showtime is 6am and the tournament will start

at 7am. An awards presentation and raffle will be held poolside immediately following the tournament at Coral Ocean Resort.

Hole-in-one prizes are a 2021 Toyota Camry LE from Atkins Kroll Saipan, a 2021 Hyundai Elenra from Triple J Motors, and 2021 Nissan Kicks from Joeten Motors Company, and \$10,000 cash. Deluxe Package Sponsors are Bridge Capitol LLC and Pacific Eco Laundry. Superior Package Sponsors are Saipan World Resort, Kanoa Resort Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan. VIP Package Sponsors are Armatech, Ben’s International Corp., Chung Nam Corp., Chong’s Corporation, Ina’s Kitchen, Shirley’s Coffee Shop, GrandVrio Resort Saipan, and the Japan Saipan Travel Association. The tournament is also supported by numerous in-kind sponsors.

For more information, contact Tournament Chairman Glenn Policare at glenn_policare@kanoaresort.com or visit www.facebook.com/HANMI670. (PR)

KOUKI

From Page 20

in 12:06.03, which was still a definite improvement on his July 10 time of 15:08.5.

“The open water race last Saturday was undoubtedly an unforgettable event. Though the harsh weather was perceived as unfortunate by many, the frigid and rough waves is what inspired me to push harder and improve my race time. I am looking for-

ward to the next open water race and hopefully many more to come!”

Batallones, for her part, improved on her 14:47.7 time in the last race by finishing first among the women with a time of 11:09.87 last Saturday.

“Doing last Saturday’s ocean swim was a little bit tough to do. The waves were big but I was glad our team were stronger than the waves. It was a fun event to do. It is nice to be competing and see each other race and win. See-

ing how supportive our team gets when it’s race days gets me motivated and happy, I look forward to having more!” she said.

Like Zhang, Sari Barman was a surprise runner-up to Batallones in the women’s 1,000m with a time of 13:17.64.

“The event I did on Saturday was 1,000 meters. I thought it would be harder than I thought, but it was easy for me, but that day was rainy and had a lot of waves and I choked many times. It was a fun experience

overall,” she said.

Jessica Ma came in third with a time of 13:27.08, which also was markedly better than the 17:28.1 she swam in the last open water swim.

“I felt really proud of myself cause I made my speed faster than last July 10’s ocean swim. But I can’t be too proud, I know that I can go faster. But there’s always next time right? So I’m definitely gonna do better!”

Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series was sanctioned by the Northern Mariana Is-

lands Swimming Federation and is the second of three events, which main purpose is to choose four swimmers (top two men and top two women) that will represent the CNMI in the 2021 FINA World Championships in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates this coming December.

Results of the 20m for beginners, 50m for intermediate, 100m for advanced, and 500m open will be published in the next issues of the *Saipan Tribune*.

SPORTS

From Page 20

the 37th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

“We are still in shock and disbelief that our brother has left us. Over social media there is a wave of grief, mixed with something akin to despair, which swept over our mixed community at the news of Ivan Blanco’s passing. I would describe Ivan as a ‘friend to the friendless.’ He took anybody and everybody at face value and was ready to be lifetime friends.

His love, care, and friendship transcended politics, political parties, race, social status, and many of the divisive issues that tear apart a community,” said Sword.

He added how Blanco was loved by everyone was attested by how many people—not only friends and family—flocked to the Commonwealth Health Center upon news of his passing came out.

“We all witnessed our CNMI legislators crying openly together on Friday. No party lines, no politics, just human beings grieving for a brother. That’s how Ivan lived,

loved, and laughed. He loved everyone and everyone loved him. His life is reminiscent of President JFK’s quote ‘Let us not emphasize all on which we differ but all we have in common. Let us consider not what we fear separately but what we share together.’ Ivan will be greatly missed by all in our community with many of us mourning his passing, but I challenge our community to continue his legacy: One love, one Pacific!” added Sword.

During the awards ceremony of the aforementioned fishing derby, emcee and Saipan Fishermen’s Association

member Curtis Dancoe led a moment of silence for fishermen that have lost their lives. Not even two weeks later, one of their own *peskadots* succumbed to what police say was “sudden-death syndrome.”

“So unexpected on his passing. He was so proud of his first place accomplishment winning the yellow fin tuna category he was so happy and you can tell his heart was filled with joy. We were so fortunate to have shared in his moment of happiness,” he said.

Rollers Basketball Club founder Joe Diaz said Blanco was an avid supporter of the

sport and never turned him down when he came asking to sponsor trophies, medals, or jerseys.

“He was a great community servant and great for the youth. He supported our programs in the NMI Rollers Basketball Club. He was easy to work with and it’s a big loss for us especially our youth who are coming up with programs. He sponsored a lot of our events along with his colleagues in the House of Representatives. I’m just very shocked that he left us early. I’m just very shocked up until now that he’s gone,” he said.

WARRIORS

From Page 20

in the win. The rest of the Golden State team included John Damien Sablan, Jayven Sablan, Luke Laxamana, and Jake Maratita Jr.

Mekean Iguel topped the Suns in the loss with his 12 points, while Devon Iguel added 6 markers. Other U9 Phoenix players were McK-

enize Castro

Micah Castro, Madden Deleon Guerrero, and Tony Xiao.

Coach Naraja said he had a brief talk with his players before the U9 championship and it obviously had a positive effect on the team.

“Right before the game started, I had a little chat with the kids. They were so curious if this was for all the marbles, and they were even worried about what would happen if

they lost. As coach I had to try and get their mind off of that. I tried my very best to motivate them and make them enjoy the moment, in which they did,” he said.

Naraja commended the Warriors for exceeding expectations in capturing the championship.

“They absolutely played their hearts out, and I couldn’t be happier to coach these future stars. Everyone in the

team played an important role. Jayla Ayuyu, MVP, was one person we had to count on all around, and was the key to our victory. John Damien Sablan, King of Assist, helped tremendously on the offensive end. Jake Maratita Jr. and Benjamin Cai, King of Rebounds, really helped us out on the defensive end. And the two youngest players on the team, Jayven Sablan and Luke Laxamana, were a huge help

to us in which they played an outstanding all-around game. I also want to recognize the Suns for playing their hearts out. It’s amazing to see these kids play the game of basketball with so much love and passion,” he said.

Golden State Warriors 25—Ayuyu 15, Cai 7, Laxamana 2.

Phoenix Suns 18—M. Iguel 12, D. Iguel 6.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

2020 TOKYO OLYMPICS MEDAL COUNT

| | G | S | B | Total |
|----------------------------|----|----|---|-------|
| Japan | 11 | 4 | 5 | 20 |
| United States of America | 10 | 10 | 9 | 29 |
| People's Republic of China | 10 | 5 | 8 | 23 |
| Russia | 7 | 8 | 4 | 19 |
| Australia | 6 | 1 | 8 | 15 |
| Great Britain | 5 | 6 | 4 | 15 |
| Republic of Korea | 3 | 2 | 5 | 10 |
| France | 3 | 2 | 3 | 8 |
| Netherlands | 2 | 5 | 2 | 9 |
| Canada | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 |
| Hungary | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Germany | 2 | 0 | 4 | 6 |
| Kosovo | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Italy | 1 | 5 | 8 | 14 |
| Switzerland | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| Chinese Taipei | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| Brazil | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| Romania | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Slovenia | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Serbia | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Hong Kong, China | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Tunisia | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Austria | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Croatia | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Estonia | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Bermuda | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Ecuador | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Islamic Republic of Iran | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Norway | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Philippines | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Thailand | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Uzbekistan | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Spain | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Georgia | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| South Africa | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Mongolia | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Belgium | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Czech Republic | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Indonesia | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| New Zealand | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Bulgaria | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Colombia | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Denmark | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| India | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Jordan | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| North Macedonia | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Poland | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Turkmenistan | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Kazakhstan | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Ukraine | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Egypt | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Mexico | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Turkey | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Cuba | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Ireland | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Israel | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Kuwait | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|-----------|----|----|------|-----|
| Boston | 62 | 39 | .614 | — |
| Tampa Bay | 60 | 41 | .594 | 2 |
| New York | 52 | 47 | .525 | 9 |
| Toronto | 49 | 47 | .510 | 10½ |
| Baltimore | 34 | 65 | .343 | 27 |

Central Division

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Chicago | 60 | 41 | .594 | — |
| Cleveland | 49 | 49 | .500 | 9½ |
| Detroit | 48 | 55 | .466 | 13 |
| Kansas City | 43 | 56 | .434 | 16 |
| Minnesota | 43 | 59 | .422 | 17½ |

West Division

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Houston | 62 | 40 | .608 | — |
| Oakland | 56 | 46 | .549 | 6 |
| Seattle | 55 | 47 | .539 | 7 |
| Los Angeles | 50 | 50 | .500 | 11 |
| Texas | 36 | 65 | .356 | 25½ |

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

| | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|------|----|
| New York | 53 | 46 | .535 | — |
| Philadelphia | 50 | 50 | .500 | 3½ |
| Atlanta | 50 | 51 | .495 | 4 |
| Washington | 46 | 54 | .460 | 7½ |
| Miami | 44 | 57 | .436 | 10 |

Central Division

| | | | | |
|------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Milwaukee | 59 | 42 | .584 | — |
| Cincinnati | 52 | 49 | .515 | 7 |
| St. Louis | 51 | 50 | .505 | 8 |
| Chicago | 50 | 52 | .490 | 9½ |
| Pittsburgh | 38 | 62 | .380 | 20½ |

West Division

| | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|-----|
| San Francisco | 63 | 37 | .630 | — |
| Los Angeles | 61 | 41 | .598 | 3 |
| San Diego | 59 | 44 | .573 | 5½ |
| Colorado | 44 | 57 | .436 | 19½ |
| Arizona | 31 | 71 | .304 | 33 |

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



**Rough day
for stars
Simone Biles,
Naomi Osaka
at Olympics**

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Saipan Tribune Sports



**TSL Foundation is Presidential Suite
sponsor for HANMI tourney**

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20 THURSDAY, JULY 29, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Kouki, Maria make it 2-for-2 in 1,000m

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

It was like *Groundhog Day* in the 1,000m open of Saipan Swim Club's Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series last Saturday morning in the waters off the Civic Center Beach in Susupe.

This, after Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan's Kouki Watanabe and Maria Batallones again emerged victorious in the event after dominating the first staging of the open water swim two weeks ago.

Watanabe topped the men's division with a time of 11:02.04, which was a vast improvement on the 14:31.9 he submitted in the first race last July 10. His time was more remarkable considering that large swells made swimmers work double time in last



From left, Jessica Ma, Sari Barman, Maria Batallones, Andrew Nunez, Joseph Zhang, and Kouki Watanabe pose for a group photo after the 1,000m open of Saipan Swim Club's Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series last Saturday in the waters off the Civic Center Beach in Susupe.

MARK RABAGO

Saturday's event.

"The weather was pretty rough that day. The waves were bouncing me around and made me feel a little dizzy, but I did my very best until the end and got first place! I am really thankful for coach and the

people who helped me reach this far. I wouldn't have been first place without them."

Joseph Zhang came out of nowhere to finish second behind Watanabe with a time of 12:04.78. It was extra special for the recent high school

graduate as it was sort of a going-away present for himself before he heads off to college.

"Last Saturday's race was exciting! There was so much going on—safety concerns, weather, waves, and it was, ultimately, my last race, so ten-

sions were high. It was very heartwarming to be able to lead the cheer with my team one last time, and it definitely gave me a boost in energy. I wanted to win and have that competitive spirit, so I kept my pace and got a silver med-

al. I completed the event with no regrets and happy to have so much support around me."

Andrew Nunez, runner-up to Watanabe two weeks ago, settled for third place this time after touching the flag

See KOUKI on Page 19

Sports community lost a great supporter

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The untimely passing of Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) didn't only rob the CNMI of a great statesman and one of the rising stars of the local Republican Party, it also orphaned many sports organizations that always run to the Precinct 3 lawmaker for help.

Northern Marianas Athletics president Ramon Tebuteb,

a former lawmaker himself, said Blanco will be missed by the federation as he was one of its biggest supporters.

"He was a vibrant supporter of NMA activities. Rep. Blanco does not hesitate to extend his commitment to our youth, our sports, our community. His presence at our events will be missed. NMA extend its condolence and prayers to his loved ones."

To honor Blanco's memory,

NMA held a moment of silence at the start of Track and Field Open Meet last Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

"NMA is not all about competitions. A moment of silence that served as a tribute for NMA's friend prior to our event last Friday is more than proper. Respect is our norm," said Tebuteb.

In behalf of the traditional canoe federation, Blanco's passing is a tremendous loss

as he has been a member of the group even before he became a lawmaker "through familial" relations, according to Tebuteb, who is one of the group's founders.

Blanco is also a known fisherman and in fact along with captain Gary Sword, Rep. Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan), Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig, and his son, Ivan Jr., won the yellowfin category of

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Northern Marianas Athletics president Ramon Tebuteb leads a moment of silence at the start of Track and Field Open Meet last Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Golden State Warriors players and their coaching staff pose with their medals after winning the U9 championships of the 2021 NMI Rollers Summer Bash last Sunday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Warriors also douse Suns in U9

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



The U9 Golden State Warriors duplicated their older brothers' championship in the U12 by taking home the title in their division after defeating the Phoenix Suns,

24-18, in the 2021 NMI Rollers Summer Bash last Sunday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Jayla Ayuyu was like a player possessed for the coach Leo Naraja's crew as she scored 15 points to pace the Warriors. Benjamin Cai also chipped in 7

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